

Passenger jets in second near miss over UK

Mix up brings aircraft to within 800 feet

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Two passenger jets with a total of more than 220 people on board flew almost head on to within 800 feet of each other above southern England yesterday in the second potentially serious air miss to be reported this month.

The incident, which resulted in the suspension of an air traffic controller at West Drayton, immediately led to a call for a new wide ranging enquiry into Britain's air traffic control system.

The pilot of a Pan Am 727 with 145 passengers and seven crew on board had to take avoiding action as he began

his descent towards Heathrow and found himself heading towards a British Caledonian BAC 1-11 en route from Gatwick to Amsterdam.

First indications are that the pilot of the Pan Am jet either misheard or mistook his instructions to descend to 26,000 feet and instead ended up at 25,000 feet — the same height as the B-Cal jet, which was climbing on its way to Amsterdam with 65 passengers and five crew.

The suspension of the controller is normal in such

Normally the controller would have been expected to realise that an aircraft had strayed lower than the level he was instructed to fly to and should give immediate orders for him to climb. Pilots are told to radio their height and to repeat the instructions given to them by the controllers.

The Pan Am pilot seems to have told the controller that he planned to fly to the wrong flight level but it was apparently not picked up and corrected. Instead the jet steadily descended at around 250 miles an hour and headed straight towards the B-Cal 1-11 climbing at about the same speed.

Both aircraft were heading towards a beacon at Clacton, Essex, one of the busiest in Britain's airway system.

Once the mistake was spotted, the Pan Am 727 was told to climb and turn to avoid the B-Cal jet. The incident happened in clear skies with visibility of at least 40 miles. The B-Cal aircraft was to continue its flight without having to take any action.

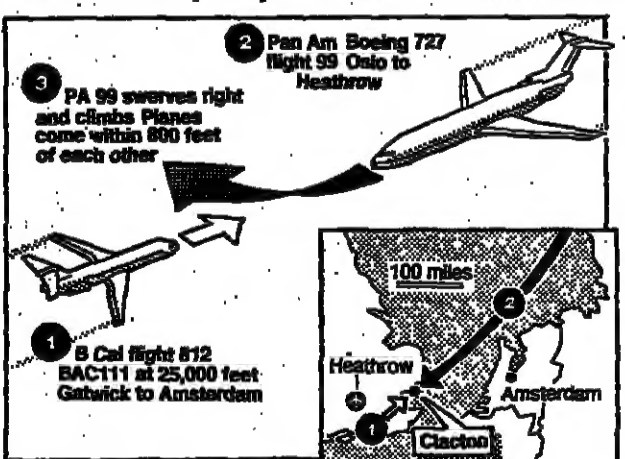
A spokesman for British Caledonian said last night: "Although the aircraft was observed at the same level and on a converging heading there was little risk of collision as the Pan Am pilot turned to avoid the B-Cal aircraft."

In the earlier incident, which led to the suspension of two controllers, a BA Tri-star and a Bulgarian Tu-154 came within feet of each other over Lydd in Kent as congestion built up on the airways and holding areas because of problems with runways lights at both Gatwick and Heathrow.

The latest air miss will provide additional ammunition for militant air traffic controllers in the Institute of Professional Civil Servants. Last week 56 delegates to a special conference in Stockholm passed a vote of no confidence in the head of the National Air Traffic Services

The enquiry into the earlier incident should now be broadened to include this near miss and to take a general look at the air traffic control problem.

The latest incident puts more pressure on the Civil Aviation Authority. It comes at a time when new computer equipment and procedures at the main air traffic control centre at West Drayton were causing a series of minor problems in which the radar screens "froze" temporarily.



Tigré rebels seize Irish nuns

By Paul Valley

Six European doctors and nurses, including two Irish nuns, have been abducted by rebel guerrillas in northern Ethiopia in a famine area, which has been the scene of fierce fighting for the past two weeks.

The aid workers, four women and two men, were taken by the Tigré People's Liberation Front (TPLF) from the town of Adiga Hamus, near Adigrat, the government garrison town under siege by the rebels for several weeks.

Yesterday Fr Aengus Finnegan, director of the Irish aid agency Concern, told The

Times: "Early on Thursday the rebels came into the town and took away two Irish nuns, a woman doctor from Concern and three health workers from Médecins Sans Frontières. They were taken away in an MSF vehicle. They left no message behind and we do not know where they have gone. We are speculating that they have been taken to treat people wounded in the heavy fighting in the area."

The Irish nuns are Dr Anne Broderick, aged 39, who is on six months leave from Waterford Maternity Hospital to work as a Concern volunteer in Ethiopia; and two nuns from the Order of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, Sister Jacinta O'Sullivan from Bantry, County Cork, and Sister Bernadette Mangano, from Killester, Dublin.

Dr Broderick's sister, Mrs May McDonald, said: "Anne just loves the people in Ethiopia. She takes great pride in her work among them. This is her third visit there since 1974 and the family is confident she will come to no harm."

The two nuns were working as nurses for Catholic Relief Services.

RUC chief's counter attack

Stalker ability put into question

By Richard Ford

Political Correspondent



Sir John Hermon, the RUC chief who has come out fighting against Mr Stalker, at home at Knock yesterday.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, today publicly challenges the ability of Mr John Stalker to carry out the investigation into allegations that the force operated a "shoot to kill" policy.

Sir John is also implicitly critical of officials who recommended the former deputy chief constable of Greater

Troops shot dead a man on the Irish border at Angharkey in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland, yesterday afternoon. The man, aged 24, and said to be a local, had passed through an Army permanent checkpoint on the Londonderry-Dublin road. The Army said it was awaiting a full report but mentioned the possibility that fatal shots may have been accidentally discharged.

Leading article.....13

Manchester for the task of investigating the deaths of five nationalist terrorists and a nationalist youth in Co Armagh in 1982.

Asked if he regretted Mr Stalker's appointment to head the inquiry, he says: "John Stalker was considered to be the most proficient detective investigator in the United Kingdom. I believe there are many people who are more mature and experienced who could have done it."

After three weeks of sustained criticism, Sir John's counter attack in a BBC Northern Ireland programme, *Up Front*, spells out publicly

Continued on page 24, col 6

Land-Rover is told to stand firm on strike

By Richard Ford and John Spicer

The state-owned Land-Rover company was told last night that it will be allowed to go bankrupt if it gives in to union demands and pays 6,000 striking manual workers more than it can afford.

Ministers made it clear that they would regard it as an act of supreme folly if the company followed Ford and capitulated to pay demands. Land Rover would be allowed to go under if its management gave in to workers who went out on strike from midnight.

Officials in Whitehall insisted that the Government would stand by its now traditional approach and leave the settlement of the strike to the management. "We will sit it out, however long it takes", one official said.

However, there is much greater interest among ministers in the outcome of the dispute as Land Rover is a state-owned firm which the Government wants to privatize this Parliament.

The company, which has received £2.9 billion from the Government, is now profitable, but it has been left in no doubt that it will have to bear the losses if it gets into financial difficulties after the dispute. "There will be no funding by us of any pay increase which is not justified. They will not be bailed out by us if they get into trouble by conceding too much", one official said.

Ministers are determined to try to prevent the Ford deal of a 14 per cent pay rise over two years becoming the norm for pay bargaining, particularly as average earnings have risen to 8.5 per cent. The Government, along with industrialists and the City, is worried that big pay increases will fuel

inflation and undermine improvements in industrial competitiveness.

Another official warned of the dangers facing Land Rover, which has just submitted a corporate plan to the Department of Trade and Industry. A lengthy strike at the company's Solihull plant would damage profitability and the Government's plans to privatize the Rover Group.

"The workers must realize they may be pricing themselves out of a job and that foreign competitors are waiting for this opportunity to increase their share of the market", one Whitehall source said.

"It will be very sad if a company which has just begun to return to profitability gets into difficulties and goes under."

Last night, however, union leaders at Land Rover said they were preparing to stay on strike "as long as it takes". Pickets are expected to be out in force today at the company's Solihull factory.

Management were taking an equally hard line, arguing that the latest offer of 14 per cent over two years gave the average production worker an immediate increase of £10.70 and kept them second in the motor industry pay league behind Jaguar.

The company claims that the offer would give Land Rover production workers £13 a week more than the package accepted by 32,000 Ford workers last week. Workers had received an increase of 15 per cent, more than £20 a week on the average wage packet, over the past year.

Continued on page 24, col 8

Lawson may cut top tax band to only 35%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, is considering a top income tax rate of 35 per cent in sweeping reforms of the tax system to be announced in the Budget.

The Chancellor has been stung by criticisms from his own party that President Reagan's tax reforms in the US have overtaken Britain with a simplified system which offers more incentives to enterprise. His aim in the March 15 Budget is to create a framework for taxation until the end of the century.

The main surprise is likely to be a bigger-than-expected reduction in top rates of income tax to below the 45 per cent to 50 per cent rates on which much speculation has so far centred.

Mr Lawson may fix a top rate of 35 per cent or 40 per cent, with the reduction partly offset by removing the upper earnings limit on National Insurance contributions. This would allow the Treasury to claw back some of the cost of the reduction in higher rates.

The Chancellor told the Cabinet last week the Budget

would be cautious — and overall tax cuts of no more than £3 billion are thought to be contemplated. But the Cabinet will not hear until Budget Day how the available physical adjustment has been split between reductions in borrowing and tax cuts.

The City is calling for a target for the public sector borrowing requirement similar to this year's expected £3 billion to £4 billion repayment of national debt. If Mr Lawson does this, he will be the first Chancellor in memory to set a borrowing target of less than zero, although the Treasury is likely to emphasize that this target is net of expected £5 billion of proceeds from the privatization of state assets.

The idea of linking cuts in the higher rates of income tax to the abolition of the upper earnings limit on National Insurance contributions was put forward by Prof Mervyn King, the eminent tax economist of a London School of Economics seminar last year.

Prof King proposed a top rate of 40 per cent which, with the removal of the National

Insurance ceiling, would convert into an actual top marginal rate of tax/National Insurance of 49 per cent.

There have been recent suggestions that the Chancellor should go further than this by setting a uniform income tax rate of 25 per cent. With the National Insurance changes, this would imply an effective top rate of 35 per cent, although the Chancellor is thought unlikely to go this far.

Much speculation has centred on whether, in reducing the higher rates of tax, the Chancellor will limit mortgage interest relief to the basic rate.

The Conservative manifesto in 1987 committed the Government to maintaining the relief and Mrs Thatcher is opposed to changing it.

The first Thatcher Budget, in June 1979, cut the top rate from 83 per cent to 60 per cent. It has remained unchanged since. The June 1979 Budget also reduced basic income tax — from 33 per cent to 30 per cent. This was trimmed two years ago to 29 per cent and lowered in 1987 to 27 per cent.

Inquiry into Saudi stake in TV-am

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is seeking legal advice over what action it can take against TV-am for failing to disclose that 15 per cent of its shareholding is held by Saudi Arabian interests.

All Britain's independent television companies must notify the IBA of shareholdings above one per cent owned by organizations or individuals outside the EEC.

But the IBA confirmed last night it was told only on February 10 about the estimated £3.5 million Saudi investment — just days after the breakfast television station celebrated its fifth anniversary.

The stake was even unknown until "very recently"

by individual board members on the strike-hit television station, Mr Adrian Moore, TV-am's deputy managing director, said last night. He had been "stunned".

He said: "The directors will be asking questions of Timothy and Jonathan Aitken concerning the whole matter. Our prime duty is to stay within the (Broadcasting) Act, to keep the IBA and stock market informed of our shareholdings and to put things right. We shall have to correct the situation."

In theory the IBA could remove TV-am's franchise, but that is highly unlikely given the Board's apparent ignorance and the station's

Continued on page 24, col 5

The fringe benefits of a Jersey conference.

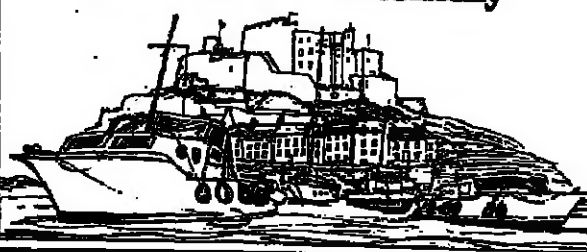
Entertaining delegates is usually an expensive necessity. On Jersey, it becomes an affordable pleasure.

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INSIDE

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● How you can win £5,000 in The Times Tournament of the Mind, which starts tomorrow. Sample questions, page 11.

IN PART 2

700 pubs sold

Brent Walker, the leisure group, is to pay £45 million for 385 public houses as part of an £80 million disposal of 701 tenanted houses by GrandMet. page 21

BP assurance

Kuwait has repeated that it will not use its 20 per cent stake in British Petroleum to demand a seat on the board or to interfere in management decisions. page 25

Liverpool win

Liverpool, the League leaders, took a big step towards the double when they beat Everton 1-0 in the fifth round of the FA Cup at Goodison Park. page 44

Crowd trouble

A police constable was in hospital last night after being injured in a brawl among soccer supporters in Manchester after another weekend of football hooliganism. page 44

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Sunny February heads for record

This February is likely to become the sunniest on record within the next few days, according to the London Weather Centre.

The best February since the start of the century was in 1970 with 105 hours of sunshine. So far this month the London weathermen have recorded about 90 hours. There is also no sign of any late-winter period of widespread snow. The mild weather of the past few days has produced temperatures higher than those in the South of France, and sea temperatures of the English south coast have been at 45 Fahrenheit, only three degrees lower than those recorded in the summer months.

Forecast, page 24

Help for Militant

Labour Party leaders want the Transport and General Workers' Union to stop one of its regions paying the legal fees of Militant Tendency supporters fighting expulsion from the party.

The Merseyside region of the union is financing the defence of 10 Knowsley councillors charged with being members of Militant or bringing the party into disrepute.

The region's action is certain to embarrass the national leadership of the union and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who is sponsored by the TGWU.

SDP split over TV

Leaders of the two wings of the SDP met this week with Mr David Owen confident he will win an acrimonious dispute to present a party political broadcast days before the formal launch of the merged party.

Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the Social Democrats, will meet Mr John Cartwright, a close colleague of Dr Owen, to settle the argument over who should have the 10-minute television slot on March 9.

Both wings of the split party applied for the date, anxious to promote their own political ideals.

Heads ask for help

Teachers should be offered leased cars, substantial help with moving house and free medical insurance to persuade them to take up jobs in areas that are suffering teacher shortages, the National Association of Head Teachers suggests.

The head teachers want interest-free loans to help them to buy homes in London and the South-east and payments to cover house-hunting trips, storage, removal and legal costs.

In the case of senior teachers, the heads are calling for a wide range of incentives such as subsidised car loans, free medical insurance, season ticket loans and low interest mortgages or mortgage subsidies.

Wildlife rescue

South West Water is to start a two-year project to save wildlife threatened by a new reservoir in Devon.

The living patterns of wild animals in the Roadford basin are being studied to ensure work is carried out at the least disruptive time of year and rare wild flowers will be replanted elsewhere.

Archaeologists are excavating sites of historical interest.

The £46 million reservoir will provide water to the entire county and is expected to be operational by the Summer of 1990.

Duty bound

A duty solicitor was arrested for suspected drink-driving by the officer who summoned him to a police station to advise a prisoner.

Stuart Gibbs, aged 32, was arrested at Camberley police station in Surrey at 2am after the custody officer smelt alcohol on his breath. He was released after providing a blood sample and is waiting to hear whether he will be prosecuted.

"I just couldn't believe it. I didn't think I was over the limit and I certainly considered myself fit enough to advise a client," he said.

Visa request rejected

The North Yemeni husbands of two Birmingham women have been refused entry visas to Britain, the Home Office said yesterday. Britain does not recognize the marriages of Zana and Nadia Muhesen, who say their father sold them as child brides, because they were under 16 at the time.

Earlier this year the women now aged 23 and 22, who are dual British-Yemeni nationals, applied for their husbands to emigrate to Britain so that they could also bring their children. In most Muslim marriages, fathers have custody of children in the event of divorce or separation.

Nine trained to fill 500 vital child nurse jobs

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Britain needs at least 500 specialist nurses to staff its children's intensive care units but last year only nine nurses were given appropriate training.

Senior nurse advisers said yesterday that the shortage of such skilled nurses, which has led to bed closures in Birmingham and elsewhere, would become even more critical unless the Government put in more money to set up training courses.

At the moment the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, central London, is the only hospital in Britain that runs a course in paediatric intensive care. Last year nine nurses gained certificates in the first year of the six-month course. This year 30 nurses will be trained, 15 on each course.

With advances in medical technology, nurses need specific training to monitor and operate complex machinery and care for seriously ill children. Yet most nurses do not have the necessary skills.

More courses are being planned in some hospitals, but health authorities complain that they lack the tutors or the funds to run them.

"The easiest cutback for a health authority with financial problems is a reduction in training places. Many nurse managers wanted to set up courses years ago but have been unable to get the money," Miss Susan Burr, paediatric adviser to the Royal College, said.

Hospitals that have the money may not have the skilled staff to provide the training. Guy's Hospital in south London expects to restrict its proposed course in intensive care to six instead of nine nurses, because it does not have enough staff to cover clinical and teaching duties.

"It is a vicious circle. There aren't enough skilled nurses to teach the skills," Miss Vera Wootton, director of nursing services at Guy's, said. "Birmingham is not the only hospital with problems. The same story is repeated at all the other children's centres."

She added: "A nurse can risk

being disciplined for professional misconduct if she works in an area without the necessary qualifications. No nurse would be able to work in the Birmingham intensive care unit without some experience in the field. Many people mistakenly think that general intensive care qualifications are adequate. Children are not just little adults. They need different care and different equipment."

The 10 children's hospitals offering neonatal and infant cardiac surgery, which are funded centrally, each have eight to ten intensive care beds, which should be staffed by five or six nurses a bed. Other less specialized children's hospitals also have intensive care beds, although no figures are collected by the Department of Health.

All nurses working in children's intensive care are expected to have post-basic training as a registered sick children's nurse and a further qualification in paediatric intensive care.

The RSCN course lasts 15 months while the intensive care

course takes six months. Even after obtaining both qualifications, nurses get no more money than they would without the extra skills.

Surveys have also shown that nurses who move to the private sector tend to be precisely those nurses who have extra skills: theatre nurses, intensive care nurses and paediatric nurses.

However, under government proposals now being considered by the nurses' pay review body, nurses with added qualifications will earn more.

The Hospital for Sick Children said yesterday that each course cost about £175,000 to run. The hospital has to pay the salaries of all nurses on the course even though they may leave to work in other areas of the country.

Nurses on the course work for five weeks at a time in one of the hospital's three intensive care units. Apart from practical experience they are taught how to use ventilation and monitoring equipment of all kinds, shown how to insert catheters, what to do if complica-

tions occur and given a course in intravenous therapy.

Last week the English National Board, which administers nurse training, approved a similar course run by Guy's, which will allow between 12 and 18 nurses to be trained in paediatric intensive care each year. Trainees from that course and another due to be set up in Birmingham will not qualify until next year.

The board said that many nurses working in intensive care units would have one of a number of other qualifications relevant to their work.

Those include general intensive care nursing, paediatric medical and surgical, neonatal, and specialist and intensive care courses for the newborn.

The Department of Health said yesterday that between 1985 and 1987, about 316 nurses a year were trained in specialist and intensive care for the newborn. However, that would not equip nurses with general children's experience.

Hospital buys tonsil operations for 152 children

Discount deal cuts waiting list

By Paul Valley

Operations on 76 children who have been on health service hospital waiting lists for up to 18 months in the East End of London were performed this weekend in a private hospital.

The £180-a-time private operations, which are to be followed by another 76 next weekend, have been organized by health service doctors in the ear, nose and throat (ENT) department at St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, in an attempt to cut down the list of more than 900 people waiting for tonsillectomies.

The waiting list has grown substantially in the past few months, during which St Bartholomew's own ENT operating theatre has had to be closed for periods because of a shortage of nursing staff.

The scheme has been organized by the department's senior consultant, Mr Jock Dowie, who was yesterday giving his time without payment to supervise a team of six health service surgeons and anaesthetists working flat out in the three operating theatres of the London Independent Hospital.

The operations, which would normally cost around £900 each in a private hospital, are costing only £180 each because Mr Dowie had made block bookings.

They are being financed at a cost of £30,000 from funds recently set aside by the Government to cut hospital waiting lists.

Mr Dowie said yesterday: "It is a good deal for everyone involved."

"The children are being dealt with more promptly. Bart's is halving its waiting list cut. The Independent is doing slack business at the moment and this fills beds for them."



Miss Andrea Warnay, nursing services manager at the London Independent Hospital, second from right, and some of the patients who are in the block booking of health service operations at the hospital (Photograph: Deszall McNeelance).

However, he said, such deals could not provide a permanent solution to the problems of London's hospitals.

He said: "Because the Independent is on low capacity it can afford to be mildly altruistic at the moment and run this as a loss leader."

"But as things get busier here the price will go up." Then such deals would not offer an economic alternative to health service treatment.

The real solution, he said, was for the Government to inject new flexibility into the nurses' pay structure so that hospitals in London could

offer more to attract nurses from the provinces.

Mr Dowie said: "We need to be able to offer theatre nurses £10,000 a year." Otherwise, he said, more nurses would defect to the far better paid private sector.

The parents of the children awaiting surgery yesterday were delighted by the doctors' initiative and by the hospital's private rooms and relaxed atmosphere.

Mr John Williams, an unemployed French polisher, whose daughter Clare, aged 18, had been waiting seven months for surgery to cure a condition which keeps her

away from work one week in four, said: "We are very pleased. We couldn't have afforded to pay for this."

However, most parents still expressed reservations about the scheme. Mr William Keegan, a self-employed greengrocer from East Ham, whose son William, aged 13, had been waiting for surgery for 18 months, said: "We're very grateful. William has been off so much it's affected his schooling."

"But it doesn't seem logical to be paying to do it here when their own operating theatre is closed down."

Mr David Currell, a bus driver, there with his daughter Lyndsey, aged seven, said: "This is a marvellous hospital but I don't agree with the way they are letting the NHS go under."

"Most people agree it needs more money, and so do the nurses."

Mrs Tracy Jenkins, at the bed of her daughter Victoria, aged five, said: "This is a beautiful hospital. This is how all hospitals should be."

"We've paid for that ten times over in taxes and national insurance over the past 20 years."

Labour Party policy

Unions' views crucial, says Edmonds

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr John Edmonds, leader of the second biggest union, has warned the Labour Party that the British people do not want to be levelled down to the worst off.

He said that the emphasis has to be on quality not just quantity. To achieve these aims the unions had to be moved back into the centre of Labour Party policy-making.

He underlined his words by saying that history was littered with self-centred Labour politicians who thought they could go it alone without the support of the unions.

Mr Edmonds, one of the union movement's leading intellectuals, said that union withdrawal from policy-making had been "profoundly unhealthy". As a result, groupings within the party were often allowed to fix policy agenda.

Some groups, often with too few active supporters to fill a small bed, proclaimed policy objectives that left most unionists "cold, alienated and confused".

Mr Edmonds criticized what has become known as the "London effect". He said: "The trend had gone further in London and as a result, Labour had fought the last three election campaigns

with a London party that looked feeble and irrelevant."

Mr Edmonds, speaking at a conference in Birmingham organized by his General and Municipal Workers' Union to examine Labour's election defeat last year, attacked commentators who had speculated that there was a separation between the unions and the Labour Party. The notion was nonsense. "The trade unions supply many of the people, most of the money and, more important, the everyday connection with the lives of the ordinary people that a party of the left always needs."

"The footnotes of history are littered with self-centred Labour politicians who thought that they could go it alone without the support of the trade unionists. The latest pair are leading two separate splinter groups within the Social and Liberal Democratic Party. What we need is not idle speculation but a popular and productive relationship between the trade unions and the constituency."

The unions represented the collective common sense of the British people. "If we are going to ensure that the Labour Party expresses the mood of our members, the trade union movement must take up its responsibilities again," he said.

Mr Edmonds said that the confidence about the unions was returning. Membership of his union was on the increase after years of decline and a six-month period of stability.

"Like most of you, I have no doubt where the Labour Party went wrong in the last few years. We lost sight of a modest dream. It sometimes seemed that the Labour Party was only interested in the homeless, or the very poor, or the unemployed or the racially discriminated. Of course a socialist party should offer support to the weak, but that cannot be our only public policy."

Mr Edmonds said that the Labour movement had constantly put emphasis on quantity - more jobs, higher pensions, more buses, more schools.

"In future an attractive Labour Party will have to put much more emphasis on quality. Our people do not just want more, they also want better. We do not just want more houses; we want decent homes. We do not just want more buses; we want buses that run frequently and on time. And particularly important to trade unionists: we do not just want more jobs, we want jobs that are interesting and fulfilling with reasonable prospects and decent pay."

Haughey attacks decision on RUC

By John Cooney

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday described as inexplicable and unacceptable the decision which he attributed to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, not to prosecute Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in connection with an alleged "shoot-to-kill" policy.

It was Mr Haughey's strongest public criticism to date of Sir Patrick's role in the controversy which has brought Anglo-Irish relations to an impasse.

Speaking on Irish radio, Mr Haughey dismissed as flawed the explanation that Sir Patrick had acted in a quasi-judicial manner without being subject to political pressure or influence.

In his statement to the Commons, Sir Patrick had admitted taking account of other considerations such as national security and public interest, Mr Haughey observed.

Sir Patrick's decision "must

be subject to and must be amenable to the political process because he brought political considerations into his decision", Mr Haughey said.

Mr Haughey restated the unanimous wish of the Irish parliament for the publication of the Stalker-Sampson report.

He anticipated that the outcome over the RUC would be unsatisfactory and that this would remain a divisive issue.

On Saturday, at his party's annual conference in Dublin, Mr Haughey had lamented that "the historic inability in Britain to comprehend Irish feelings and sensitivities still remains".

The urgent need for the two governments to avoid public wranglings over extradition will be highlighted by the case of Mr Owen Carron, the former Sinn Féin MP, who was arrested in Sligo on Friday.

A district judge ordered Mr Carron to be handed over to the custody of the RUC.

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Law makes it easier to get compensation for poor goods

In the first of two articles, Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the background to a new law aimed at helping victims of defective products to claim compensation.

From March 1, the Consumer Protection Act, 1987 introduces a new concept into English law: product liability.

It will impose on manufacturers "no fault" liability for the goods they produce, in a way similar to that in the United States.

The law, heralded as the most important consumer reform for 50 years, shifts the balance, now weighted heavily in favour of the manufacturer, towards the consumer.

It will have a huge impact on companies in many sections of industry and commerce as they will be liable for a defective product

whether or not they were at fault, unless they can rely on one of the defences in the Act.

Victims will no longer have to prove that a manufacturer was negligent. The new law sweeps that hurdle away and, instead, victims will have to prove only that the product caused the damage in question.

Where they succeed, the law will provide for unlimited compensation for death, personal injury and damage to property where that exceeds £275.

The law also means that victims can claim against a range of possible defendants, from the manufacturer of a product to the producer of any

part of it, including people holding themselves out as the producer through the use of their own brand name, as well as importers of the product into the EEC.

For example, it is the view of some lawyers that if defective brake cylinders are put into a car, both the makers of the part and the makers of the finished product are liable under the new Act, and someone injured because of the failure of the car brakes could sue either of them.

The removal of the need for consumers to prove negligence was recommended by the Law Commission and then the Pearson Royal Commission as long ago as 1978, but it is only now that the Govern-

ment has been forced to frame the reforms in law to comply with the EEC directive on product liability.

The directive gives member states an option on whether to include a defence enabling manufacturers to resist claims on the ground that at the time the product was marketed, scientific knowledge was such that they could not have been expected to have discovered the defect.

It is known as the "development risks" defence and, in spite of widespread opposition from the consumer lobby and the legal profession, the Government was persuaded by the Confederation of British Industry to include it in the Act.

The confederation said that, without the defence, innovative research would be stifled and harm Britain's competitiveness.

However, France, Belgium and

Luxembourg are not including the defence.

Indeed, the consumer lobby believes the inclusion of the defence weakens the new measure significantly.

Mr David Trench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, which has led the campaign for change, said: "The new law is a considerable advance for the consumer. People suing for injury or death caused by defective products will no longer have to prove negligence."

"But instead there is the development risks defence, so the law takes away with one hand what is being given with the other."

"It does at least shift the burden of proof, so the onus is on the manufacturer to prove he can rely on it, instead of the victim having to prove negligence."

Tomorrow: how the law will work.

nurse jobs

they attack
on RUC

1 point good

Call to end 'secret' court hearings for the well-connected

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Defendants with the right connections are having their court cases held without them being reported because of abuses of the Contempt of Court Act, according to a report published today.

Examples highlighted in the report include: A drink-driving case involving a judge's wife which was held at 9.30am - half an hour before proceedings normally began; A former magistrate, on an indecency charge, whose case switched suddenly from Leeds to York;

Three policemen on assault charges who were dealt with before reporters arrived for the scheduled time of the court hearing;

A court clerk charged with indecent assault whose case was heard half an hour before the court normally opened;

A solicitor's son whose offence was not revealed because of a secret switch of courtrooms; A council candidate charged with kerb crawling whose case was adjourned to a specific date, but was then heard earlier without the press being told.

The Association of British Editors, representing editors in all branches of the media, calls for guidelines to be issued requiring courts to give the press basic details, including defendants' names and charges, of their proceedings.

The association's report, *How Open is Open Justice?* is based on responses from more than 900 local newspapers throughout the country. It found that many courts were using section 11 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981 to protect some defendants from publicity.

"Even without using section 11, it is possible for many celebrity defendants to escape press publicity with the connivance of the courts and their solicitors," the report says.

One such attempt was last November at Horseferry Magistrates Court in London when Mrs Therese Lawson, the wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had her case rushed through within 40 minutes of being charged with a drink-driving offence.

Her name was not on the day's court list and she appeared unannounced in the dock as the first defendant of the day, the editors' report adds.

While everyone agrees that justice must be seen to be done, "the evidence suggests that some people in high places would prefer it to be seen to be done while the press wasn't watching".

Section 11 of the Contempt of Court Act is written, the association says, in such labyrinthine language that magistrates "can wield it as a weapon against the press at any time or in any way that they wish, its growing use could make it as notorious as section 2 of the Official Secrets Act in the way that it adds to the cloak of secrecy beloved of so many people in high places".

The wording of section 11 is: "In any case where the court (having power to do so) allows a name or other matter to be withheld from the public in proceedings before the court, the court may give such directions prohibiting the publication of that name or matter in connection with the proceedings as appear to the court to be necessary for the purpose for which it was so withheld".

The report says: "Too many of Britain's courts are a law unto themselves and it is clear that some magistrates and clerks are conniving with solicitors and defendants to obstruct journalists".

By contrast, the association says, Coventry Magistrates Court is one of the most helpful in the country. It provides a defendant's name, address, date of birth and occupation, and the charge in full, plus the plea, the maximum penalty and the names of solicitors and police officers involved.

How Open is Open Justice? Association of British Editors, PO Box 265, Newspaper House, 8-16 Great New Street, London EC4A 3ER (£5).

Conflict over rape reporting

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The press and the broadcasting media have disagreed about how to report court cases involving rape when the Criminal Justice Bill becomes law and the anonymity of defendants is abolished.

Generally, newspapers would prefer to identify the defendant, which restricts reporting of the evidence so as to avoid identifying the victim or victims.

Television and radio, though, say it is often more important to fully report the offence rather than to identify the defendant - particularly in cases involving members of a family.

In recent child sexual abuse cases, say broadcasters, the true extent of abuse within families was concealed from the public because of the tendency of the press to identify the defendants.

The Press Council is trying

to establish a consensus for draft guidelines in the light of widespread criticism of some sections of the press over coverage of the West London vicarage rape case a year ago.

The move comes after a meeting organized by the council and attended by representatives of the press, Scotland Yard and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The aim is to avoid a victim of rape, as in the vicarage case, possibly being identifiable through newspapers or broadcasting stations reporting different details which between them complete an identity "jigsaw".

Mr David Newell, secretary of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, said yesterday: "We cannot identify defendants at all, unless and until they are convicted; but when the Criminal Justice Bill is law we will be able to report who the defendant is, and give full details of the offence, provided that neither identifies the victim".

The majority view of newspaper editors was that if the law was changed to allow them to name defendants, then they should do so.

"What, otherwise is the point of changing the law?" There was a problem where the defendant had a relationship with the victim, added Mr Newell. The press was concerned that, as broadcasting bodies disseminated news in advance of newspapers, their views that the offence should be given priority over names would dictate newspaper coverage.

"We hold the ring and we report these cases. We don't see why the broadcasting media should dictate how criminal cases should be reported in circumstances where we do the work of reporting them."

Hoping for a glorious weekend



By Howard Foster

Off duty: Most people flee the city to seek out the pleasures of the country when they want to relax. The film director John Boorman and his wife Cristel already lead the country life at their home in Co Wicklow, Ireland. When they want time off they head for France and their apartment in the heart of Paris.

The past year has been a busy and successful one for Mr Boorman, pictured in Paris with his daughters Telsche, left, and Kristine, right. His autobiographical film, *Hope and Glory*, was released in Britain last September. Since then, it has received numerous critical awards as well as five nominations for Oscars and 13 Bafta nominations.

He said: "It feels as though I have spent more time on this film after it was completed than when I was making it."

"I am not really thinking about the actual Oscars any more. In a sense, I am quite happy just to have been nominated. I do get something, it's a bonus. I don't lose sleep."

Typically, for someone who possesses

the energy to write, produce and direct a film such as *Hope and Glory*, a day off for John Boorman is seldom a day spent in bed.

"We have had the apartment in Paris since I bought it for Kristine and Telsche when they were students here eight years ago", he said.

Mr Boorman said the flat was close to the meat market at Les Halles and soon after the market gets going, with all the noise and the smells at about 5am, was the time he rose from bed.

"I walk over to buy the croissants and I make the coffee. We walk everywhere in Paris and we are quite likely to make our way over to a favourite restaurant for lunch. We have a lot of friends in Paris and we love meeting them to catch up."

"After lunch we might go to an exhibition. This weekend has been marvellous because Paris has a Van Gogh and a Degas retrospective. Then we might go back to the apartment for a sleep and then - the movies."

Paris was the place to come to see films, Mr Boorman said. "There are hundreds of little cinemas. Near us is the

Pompidou Centre which has dozens of films a week. I always go to the movies when I am in Paris because there are so many older ones around. I just watch and catch up on everything. I could not be happier."

"Then we might go out for dinner and home. Back in Ireland I ride horses and I am in the country all the time. Paris is ideal when we want to get away."

● The Government is accused of being "wholly indifferent" to the British film industry in a report published today, a week after British films received a total of 14 Oscar nominations.

The National Campaign for the Arts called for Mr Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, to be given sole responsibility for the film industry. At present it is shared with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Education, the Foreign Office and the Home Office.

In spite of the popularity in America of British films, fewer films were made in Britain in 1985, the last year for which details are available, than in France, Italy, West Germany, Spain or Greece. (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Two share winnings of £8,000

Two winners share the £8,000 weekly Portfolio prize.

They are Mr Simon Jerome of Priory Road, Hampton, London, and Mr H.C. Holmes of Islington, north London.

● Mr Eric Edwards, of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, in north Wales, and Mr Harry Harcourt, of Farnham, Surrey, shared £4,000 from the February 5 daily prize and not £8,000 as stated previously.

Gardeners go missing at BBC

By Our Media Editor

The BBC has lost thousands of requests for *Gardeners' Question Time* to visit horticultural clubs and societies.

An entire file of invitations covering Cornwall and dating back 20 years has gone missing from the corporation's Manchester offices. Diana Stenson, the producer, only discovered the loss when she was planning this year's visit to the South-west.

"There must be thousands of invitations in that file. I have got a West Country trip coming up but we have had to leave Cornwall out for two years," she said yesterday.

"I have said we lost this file in an office move. That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it."

Invitations from gardening clubs to the panel of experts total 500 a year and the average time before a request is granted is 16 years. The popular half-hour programme has enough invitations to fill its weekly slot until 2050.

Miss Stenson said: "You can't go on running a programme and not pay respects to a certain part of the country, particularly a very keen gardening area like Cornwall."

Clay Jones, the programme presenter, yesterday urged secretaries of Cornish gardening and horticultural clubs to re-submit invitations.

Miss Stenson now expects to receive thousands of letters "from all those societies who have been on the list for 20 years". Miss Stenson promised that the country would get "more than a fair crack of the whip once the invitations start flooding in".

Algae will be used by drug firms

The industrial nations are taking over a Third World technology developed for producing a cheap source of vegetable protein.

The original idea, using algae that grow even in the desert, was to help to feed the starving millions. The new plan is to use the technique, which was among those pursued by international aid agencies more than 20 years ago, to produce a dietary supplement for health-conscious Britons and Americans.

The substance, beta-carotene, discovered as a waste product in the original process, has been linked to reduced risk of cancer, and a number of drug companies want to exploit it.

The present theory is that carotene protects the body by neutralising certain chemicals, known as free radicals, which can damage cells and are thought to occur more frequently as people grow older.

The drug companies' interest began when research supported by the American National Research Council concluded that "epidemiological evidence is sufficient to suggest that foods rich in carotenes or vitamin A are associated with a reduced risk of cancer".

The body makes vitamin A from beta-carotene, and carotenes are found in dark green leaves of vegetables, carrots, and fruits including peaches and apricots.

Algae are up to 150 times richer in carotene than are the vegetable sources.

The original technique, which proved a great success in the Third World, used a centrifuge to extract protein from the algae. The centrifuge method is now being adapted by a number of large pharmaceutical companies to produce natural beta-carotene concentrates.

● There is little evidence to suggest that a vegetarian diet is in itself less or more healthy than meat eating, a report by the British Nutrition Foundation says. However, changing to a vegetarian diet can lead to malnutrition, particularly among children, if no attempt is made to compensate for the withdrawal of meat and fish.

Rebel teachers facing new restriction

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The four teachers who may be dismissed because they have talked to parents about their concerns over the General Certificate of Secondary Education may be banned from the hired rooms in which they are coaching 30 pupils for the Scottish O grade history examination.

The teachers say that they will teach "in the open air" in the recreation ground near by if they are refused rooms.

Mr Chris McGovern, head of history at Lewes Priory Upper School, East Sussex, has been called to a disciplinary meeting, and his three colleagues were told on Friday that they were to attend "preliminary inquiries into their conduct".

The measures follow the teachers' decision to teach the more traditional Scottish examination as well as GCSE because the latter was, they said, "virtually unteachable" and unfair to pupils.

Parents of 30 pupils are paying for the hire of two rooms at a technical college, near by, booked in the teachers' names, every Friday evening.

Mr McGovern received a letter from Mr Michael Alsop,

A state secondary school affected by falling rolls is advertising for pupils.

The Simon Digby School in Chesham Wood, Solihull, West Midlands, has become the first state school in the region to place advertisements in local newspapers appealing to the parents of potential pupils.

The "bait" to attract new pupils is a two-year GCSE media technology course on offer at the school, which has 500 pupils. Its annual intake has declined from 200 to only 100 over the past four years.

The advertisements draw attention to the £200,000 worth of technical facilities installed under the

principal of Lewes Technical College, during the half-term holiday last week, which said that the hire arrangement would be cancelled if the teachers talked to the press.

Mr Alsop is also a governor of Lewes Priory Upper School. He was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Mr McGovern said: "This is spiteful. I would be surprised if Mr Alsop is not collaborating with the local education authority."

Government's technical and vocational education initiative, including a television studio, video cameras and a recording studio.

Other state schools in the region are considering advertising for new pupils to counter the effects of the falling birth rate.

Mr Paul Luscombe, assistant director of education for Solihull, said: "It is unusual to advertise, but the impact of falling rolls is widespread."

"With financial autonomy being introduced and extended and probably backed by legislation, it will be up to heads and governors to decide whether marketing is the right place to put their money."

"If we cannot have rooms in the college I am prepared to teach in the open air."

Mr McGovern says that the GCSE history syllabus is, under the criteria approved by the Secondary Examinations Council, open to abuse by politically motivated teachers.

He says that the examination's attempt to assess "empathy" - the degree to which pupils understand why historical figures acted as they

did - is a formula for political indoctrination.

The syllabus says that teachers must set an "empathy" assignment in which pupils write essays from the point of view of, for example, an Arab or an Israeli.

However, the GCSE guidelines do not instruct teachers to teach both sides of the argument. Mr McGovern says that gives unscrupulous teachers carte blanche to teach bias.

Top marks are awarded in the "empathy" exercise for a "balanced" attempt at the following exercise: "Draft a speech to be made by a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. This speech will justify these actions: the hijacking of aircraft to Jordan in 1970, the shootings at Tel Aviv airport, and the attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games". The pupils are penalized for a one-sided or bigoted account.

Mr McGovern said: "This means pupils are getting top marks for justifying murder, and for making an Arab terrorist appear to be a model of heroism and reason. The old system would only have asked for an essay explaining the aims of the PLO."

Fossil find in deepest suburbia

The rare fossilized remains of an ice age hippopotamus have been discovered in a garden in south-east London.

Mr Peter Theodosios, a graphic designer aged 30, found the fossils in front of his Downham house after they had been discarded by a mechanical digger.

He took the remains to the Natural History Museum which identified them as belonging to *Hippopotamus amphibius*, an ice age mammal which roamed the Thames River Basin 130,000 years ago.

Dr Alan Gentry, a resident paleontologist, said the fossils - consisting of the massive bones from the thigh and forelimbs, and the hip joint - represented one of the most complete finds since a discovery underneath Trafalgar Square in the 1960s.

Dr Gentry, however, advised the growing squad of Downham fossil hunters to put away their picks and shovels because the fossils lie buried in several metres of waterlogged and inaccessible sediment.

The ancient hippopotamus inhabited England during a warm, interglacial period.

£2m estimate put on Modigliani's last painting

The picture found on Amedeo Modigliani's easel at his death in 1920 is to be sold at Christie's London, with an estimate of £2 million.

It is a portrait of Marius Varvoglis, the Greek composer who spent many of Modigliani's last days with him in Paris. At that time, Modigliani was penniless, addicted to both drink and drugs, and suffering from tuberculosis.

In retrospect it seems he was painting like fury before his time was up. He died aged 36 a week after being admitted to a charity hospital. His lover Jeanne Hebuterne, seven months pregnant, killed herself the next day.

The portrait - unusual in not having a sinuous woman for a subject - shows "Mario" as the composer was nicknamed, in hat and coat,

and 10 Reds, sold for £163,429. At Sotheby's, a delicate, articulated sculpture representing a single stalk of wheat, sold for more than twice its estimate at £94,286.

Japanese dealers were active at both sales, buying the two top lots at Sotheby's. First was an abstract painting comprising a plain of white colour interrupted by red and green smudges and a yellow line by Theodoros Stamos, a New York contemporary of Mark Rothko, for which they paid almost £110,000, nearly three times the estimate.

At Christie's, Japanese dealers spent £81,174, more than twice the estimate, on "My Landscape I", a wildly colourful abstract expressionist painting by Joan Mitchell, another American.

An example of Pop Art-style pornography in the form of

Mel Ramos's hugely breasted girl from an advertisement fetched £59,714. Also at Christie's, one of David Hockney's famous swimming pool paintings, "Plastic Sheet Floating in our Pool of 1977", sold for £94,286 to a private Californian buyer.

Meanwhile, at Sotheby's Monaco a rare watercolour by Fragonard sold within estimates for £100,000 to a French collector at an Old Master drawings sale.

Called "Le Canal" and probably painted at Fontainebleau or Versailles, it shows the waterway beneath trees, with people climbing a ladder to plug fruit.

The piece, which was supported by French buyers rather than Americans and English dealers, totalled £620,000, with 10 per cent bought in.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 19th February 1988, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£200 million 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992
£100 million 9½ per cent Treasury Stock, 1999
£100 million 9½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013
The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant stock at 3.30 p.m. on 19th February 1988 as certified by the Government Broker.

In addition, Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 19th February 1988, and has issued to the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£100 million 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992
£50 million 9½ per cent Treasury Stock, 1999
In each case, the amount issued on 19th February 1988 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provision contained in the final paragraph of this notice, the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of the International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992 dated 11th November 1977, 9½ per cent Treasury Stock, 1999 dated 12th January 1973 and 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013 dated 15th February 1985 may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, New Change, London, EC4M 3AJ.

The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below (in the case of 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013 provision is made in the prospectus for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances).

The relevant index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013 are as follows:

| Interest payable | Published in | Relevant index figure | Relating to |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| February | July of the previous year | June | December |
| August | January of the same year | January | August |

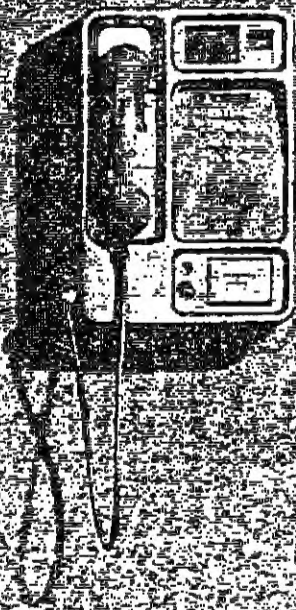
The further tranches of 9½ per cent Treasury Stock, 1999 and 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013 will rank for a full year's interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock. The further tranche of 10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992 has been issued on an ex-dividend basis and will not rank for the interest payment due on 21st February 1988. Official dealings in the Stocks on The International Stock Exchange are expected to commence on Monday, 22nd February 1988.

10 per cent Treasury Stock, 1992, 9½ per cent Treasury Stock 1999 and 2½ per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2013 are specified under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as gilt-edged securities (under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Stocks are held).

Government statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any opinion or transaction made on the basis of such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
19th February 1988

**TO SOME PEOPLE
HIS 12 MONTHS
OUT OF WORK
COUNT FOR MORE
THAN HIS 20
YEARS IN WORK.**



He's in his early 40's.

He needs to work and wants to work.

He has 20 years of valuable experience to offer employers.

He's also prepared to adapt and learn a new skill, if it will get him a job.

So why can't he even get near to an interview most of the time?

Especially now that there are more jobs around.

The trouble is that when someone like this applies for a job, the only experience anyone seems to take into account is his time on the dole.

This simply doesn't make sense.

Many employers throughout Britain are missing the opportunity to take on people who are keen, experienced and ambitious.

And who only need a chance to show what they can do.

So before you dismiss the unemployed as unemployable, think again.

And give your local Jobcentre a call.

We'll send you people who'll be more than keen to work.

And who you'll be keen to have working for you.

**THE
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE.**

There's a job to be done.

صحتنا من العمل

Probation officers oppose 'ineffective' electronic tagging

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Probation chiefs today come out against tagging, the electronic surveillance technique based on the cellular radio telephone system.

They say that with only 300 extra staff they could more cheaply relieve the prisons of 6,000 inmates without the need for the electronic tagging devices, usually worn in the form of a bracelet or anklet, which would simply report on whether the offender was staying within the prescribed zone, not whether he or she was committing a crime there.

The probation chiefs say they could do the job better with more use of probation, community service, supervision orders for juveniles, and parole.

Mr William Weston, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said: "To operate an electronic surveillance system of any kind, you are going to need a lot more people anyway. I am sure you could not operate such an electronic surveillance system that would reduce the prison population by 6,000 with 300 extra staff."

The probation service already has more than 140,000 offenders under supervision

in England and Wales, compared with nearly 50,000 people in prison.

There are only about 6,000 probation officers. With their vast experience of dealing with offenders, they represent the most significant challenge yet to tagging schemes being considered by the Government.

The probation service would be the most likely candidate for doing tagging surveillance, unless the Government felt able to use a private company.

The probation chiefs say in a memorandum to Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, they would be "extremely anxious" about the courts having the power to make an order for house arrest.

The high degree of restraint and the need to fit restrictions to individual circumstances "would risk grave inconsistencies and injustices if such an untried and major innovation were at the disposal of courts".

If house arrest were contemplated as a condition of bail, the more suitable it would be for electronic surveillance the more suitable they would be for bail without it.

Whenever there was no

satisfactory response on bail to a random telephone call during electronic surveillance, that would need to be investigated.

"The much older and simpler system of requiring defendants to report at stated intervals to police stations would not impose the same kind of house arrest as a condition of bail, but it is a system which works and which by comparison makes much less demands on police manpower."

Use of house arrest as part of a prison sentence could be envisaged as working with certain offenders but they would be too small a proportion to make an effective impact on the jail population. They would have to be people with telephones, stable homes and stable lifestyles.

Yet a number of American schemes could not take homeless offenders, addicts, or people with many of the more common social or behaviour problems.

There was evidence from the American experience that house arrest increases tension in the home. Mr Weston says that many such people are already in fairly precarious family situations, with child abuse a constant risk.

Scout ventures out



Nikki Sigery, aged 17, preparing to abseil 110ft from the roof of a department store yesterday after she was invested as a Venture Scout with the 1st Chadwell Heath group, in Redbridge, east London. The event also marked the 21st anniversary of Venture Scouting.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Assessing the Ibbs concept

The Prime Minister's response to the report on Civil Service efficiency from Sir Robin Ibbs has focused attention on such straightforward government tasks as processing passports and tending the royal parks.

The significance of the reform for other Civil Service work, such as deciding which sociologists deserve support in their research or drawing up a co-ordinated policy on alcohol, is less clear.

The job of secretary to the Economic and Social Research Council, the smallest but most controversial of the agencies for dispensing public money to the academic and scientific community, has gone to Mr David Stafford, an assistant secretary from the Department of Education and Science.

His seat is traditionally warmish. The council's 25-year history has been bedevilled by allegations of administrative incompetence mixed with unsavoury tales of the obtrusion into work of officials' private lives.

Mr Stafford needs to stake a claim on behalf of the social sciences to a share of money that is about to be released by the University Grants Committee to the research councils. He must come in and keep the show on the road.

Whether he manages will be worth watching. The council is already half way to being one of the executive agencies proposed in the Ibbs report.



Mr David Stafford: a new type of chief executive.

and Mr Stafford's performance as a type of chief executive will provide evidence of how the concept works in a difficult area.

Assessing applications from professors of economics for grants is, in principle, a lot more difficult than processing driving licence applications.

And how might the new managerialism work, say, in securing the more effective delivery of government policy on alcohol?

A report published last week by the Addiction Research Centre of Hull and York universities lists the number of departments and agencies with some kind of stake in policy on alcohol.

It is a long one, which starts with Customs and Excise and the Treasury and also includes the Ministry of Agriculture (purity of drinks, nutritional aspects of alcohol consumption), the Department of

Transport (drink driving, alcohol consumption in the merchant navy), the Home Office (crime, drinks advertisements on television) and the Department of Health and Social Security (drinking and the health service).

Responses also come from the Department of Employment (drinking and absenteeism, the tourist industry), the Department of Trade and Industry (whisky exports, the size of pint glasses), the Ministry of Defence (drinking in the Armed Forces), the Lord Chancellor's Department (JPs and licensed premises), the Environment Department (sponsorship of sport by the drinks industry, football hooliganism), Department of Education and Science (young people and drink) and last but not least the Cabinet Office, which worries sometimes about Civil Servants' drinking habits.

The Ibbs debate has focused on departments and within them on the autonomy of executive agencies. What price the mechanisms for making departments operate together?

The paradox in Ibbs is that devolution of power may increase the need for strong central direction and not just through the financial levers that the Treasury will continue to control.

Alcohol Policies: responsibilities and relationships in British government (Centre for Health Economics, University of York, Hedlington, York YO1 5DD, £4.50).

Drop in variation of Euro car prices

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

New car prices in Britain are still among the highest in the EEC though the value of buying a car on the Continent and importing it to the United Kingdom is now questionable. A consumer survey shows that basic prices before value added tax and special car tax in Britain are 19 per cent higher than in Belgium where prices have been held back by government fiscal controls.

The advantage is even greater in Denmark where crippling taxation forces manufacturers to lower new car prices which are 41 per cent below the level in Britain. The survey by the Brussels-based Bureau of European Consumers' Unions says it is worth exporting cars from one EEC country to another rather than buying at home.

The pre-tax price of a Ford Fiesta is £4,113 in Britain yet £2,702 in Denmark, before taxes of more than £5,000 are heaped on to the basic price. The variation in pricing is more marked among larger cars that attract luxury taxes in many European countries. A Ford Granada 2.9 that costs £18,753 in Britain is sold for only £13,271 in Germany where VAT is charged at 14 per cent and no special car tax

is levied. In the Irish Republic the same car costs more than £28,000 and £36,000 in Denmark.

The AA last night advised buyers to shop around dealers in Britain for a good discount on the retail price rather than import a car. Many motorists buying new cars on the Continent through cut-price import companies had suffered problems.

The gap between prices in different countries is narrowing. Since 1981 the gap between the average Belgian and British prices has fallen from 52 per cent to 19 per cent.

The plan to create a single open market within the EEC in 1992 should help bring car prices closer together. The EEC bureaucrats are not aiming to replace every national taxation system with a single scheme but they will act to remove discrimination against certain types of vehicle.

Sales of British cars in Japan are second only to West Germany's, and ahead of France and Italy. In 1987 sales in the highly profitable Japanese market rose from 5,000 to more than 7,000 as Rover, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce enjoyed success.

HOW TAXES AFFECT CAR PRICES

| | Ford Fiesta | Granada |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Denmark | 5,036 | 7,739 |
| Ireland | 2,782 | 6,694 |
| Netherlands | 1,750 | 5,134 |
| Britain | 1,011 | 5,124 |
| Spain | 1,140 | 4,583 |
| France | 959 | 4,385 |
| Germany | 537 | 4,371 |
| Portugal | 912 | 4,311 |
| Italy | 595 | 3,899 |
| Belgium | 775 | 3,675 |
| | Price | Price |
| | 25,262 | 38,618 |
| | 12,742 | 26,536 |
| | 7,052 | 19,021 |
| | 3,700 | 18,753 |
| | 5,347 | 21,548 |
| | 3,381 | 15,455 |
| | 1,830 | 13,271 |
| | N/A | N/A |
| | 4,201 | 15,257 |
| | 2,539 | 14,693 |

Based on Fiesta 900 cc and Granada 2.9 litre. Prices July 1987

Source: Bureau of European Consumers' Unions

Motorway repairs

Delays plague work on 150 bypass schemes

By Rodney Cartwright, Transport Correspondent

The starting dates for the construction of nearly 150 bypasses have been put back during the past 18 months, the British Road Federation says.

In October 1986 the federation produced a list of 591 bypass schemes planned by national and local authorities.

A new survey, published today, shows that 145 of these have later starting dates for construction than were envisaged 18 months ago. Most of the deferrals are for one or two years.

The federation believes it could need an increase in resources of up to 50 per cent to bring the bypass programme back on to schedule.

Main roadworks until next Monday:

London and South-east

M1 London: closure of hard shoulder and nearside lane southbound between Heathrow services and Mill Hill.

M4 Wiltshire: lane closures and speed restrictions on both carriageways between jns 15 and 12 (Swindon/Theale).

M11 Essex: contraflow between jns 8 and 10 (Bishop's Cleeve/Dunford).

M25 Surrey: lane restrictions between jns 11 and 13 (Chertsey/Staines), inside lane closed clockwise from 7pm to 6.30am until Friday between jns 11 and 12 (Chertsey/M3).

A1 Bedfordshire: bridge repairs at Tempsford; single-lane traffic southbound with a 30mph limit.

Midlands

M1 Northants: off-peak lane

Wales and West

M4 Wiltshire: lane 3 closed in both directions east of jn 15 (Swindon) and 50mph limit.

M4 Wales: possible lane closures for crash barrier repairs at jn 29.

M5 Gloucestershire: lane closures in both directions between jns 9 and 12 (Tewkesbury/Gloucester).

Scotland

M8 Lothian: eastbound traffic down to hard shoulder only at jn 3 (A899); east-bound entry slip at jn 3 closed.

M8 Strathclyde: eastbound lane closures between jns 16 and 15 (Glasgow city centre/Townhead).

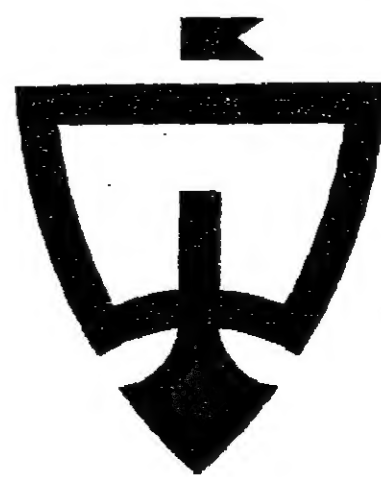
M74 Strathclyde: jns 4-5 (Hamilton/E Kilbride) lane closures on both carriageways.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch



They'll be amazed at Mazda on March 10th.

Our preliminary results for 1987 will be published on Thursday, March 10th. You may find them mildly surprising.



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WORLD ROUNDUP

UN agency shuts Lebanon clinics

Beirut (Reuters) — Clinics and schools for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon will be closed because of the kidnapping of two Scandinavian aid workers, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency said yesterday.

The agency, which announced last week it was stopping all services needing the supervision of international staff, explained how the cuts would affect the 280,000 Palestinian refugees it serves in Lebanon. A spokesman said: "We consider that there is a threat to all our foreign staff and we are trying to minimize that as much as possible."

The agency, which runs 85 schools and 17 health centres, said its offices and installations in both Sidon and Tyre would close because of the lack of foreign staff and the suspension of all supplies to the south. Repairs to the Bourj al-Barajneh and Chatila camps in Beirut had been halted.

Briton abducted Cuts deal at Post

Islamabad (Reuters) — Mr Geoffrey Langlands, a British schoolmaster aged 70, was kidnapped on Saturday after his Jeep was stopped in a wild area of north-west Pakistan, the British Embassy said yesterday.

Mr Langlands, an acquaintance of President Zia, is one of Pakistan's best-known British residents and taught for many years in Lahore. No motive for the abduction is known. Mr Langlands's assistant was also seized but was freed. LONDON: The Foreign Office said yesterday it was in close touch with Pakistan over the abduction, which was being investigated at the "most senior level".

Defeat for gangsters

Tokyo — Gangsters in the central Japanese city of Hamamatsu suffered a severe reversal last weekend when they were evicted by court order from their offices after a three-year siege by angry residents (David Watts writes). It was the first time that public pressure against the Yakuza, the country's equivalent of the Mafia, had been rewarded with successful legal action.

Three hundred police cordoned off the city centre building as the crewcut, square-jawed men of the Ichiriki Ikka — linked to the Yamaguchi-gumi gang, Japan's biggest, with 400 affiliated groups and 10,400 members — pulled out. The residents' victory is significant as gangsters and their right-wing political allies have been virtually untouchable for years. The case is expected to be a model for future attempts by private citizens to expel unwanted gangsters from residential areas.

Nicaragua Hawke in talks hope poll test

Guatemala City — Despite the Archbishop of Managua's sudden suspension of the Nicaraguan ceasefire negotiations here on Friday, both the Sandinista Government and the Contras have expressed their willingness to meet again (Martha Honey writes).

The two sides have accepted "in principle" Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo's peace proposal as the basis for further talks. But the manoeuvring which led to the break in the talks has raised doubts about prospects for success in future discussions.

The state Premier, Mr Barrie Unsworth, acknowledged Labor, which lost a safe Adelaide seat two weeks ago, as both underdog and unpopular when he announced the date yesterday.

Tunisians charged

Valletta — Two Tunisians, both aged 26, have been charged before magistrates here with having robbed and murdered four men in 20 days (Austin Sammut writes). Mr Mosbah Mohsen Ben Ibrahim and Mr Ben Wahid Ben Hassine, who pleaded not guilty, had to be protected by the police as they were attacked by crowds outside the court.

They were charged with the murder of Mr Peter Rhead, aged 50, a Briton, on board a yacht on February 1; of Guillaume André Michel Leveret, a French hitch-hiker aged 21, on February 12; and of two Maltese taxi drivers, George Cucciarri and Alfred Dermanin, last Thursday. The night-time killings were all macabre, with the victims suffering several gunshot and stab wounds.

Soviet home loans to beat shortages

Moscow (AP) — Soviet citizens will be allowed to take out large bank loans to build private homes under a Government decree, published yesterday, that marks a big change in direction in tackling the country's tenacious housing problem.

One in five Soviet families live in "communal housing", which can be anything from a bunk in a collective farm barracks to a couple of rooms in an urban flat shared with another family.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors in promising a separate home or flat for every family, vowing to eradicate the housing shortage by the year 2000.

But progress in putting up new apartment blocks has been slow. Much of the existing urban housing is in poor condition and construction quality remains the subject of frequent complaints.

Statistics published last month on the Soviet Union's economic performance in 1987 claimed that 13 million new flats had been given improved housing. But the yearly statistical reports do not indicate how many families were displaced by large renovation or demolition projects in many cities.

Yesterday's decree, published on the front page of Pravda, said the Government hoped to "activate the human factor" and persuade people to build their own homes with the help of Government loans.

It also called on large industrial enterprises to play a bigger role in providing housing and indicated that small

groups of people who wanted to produce building materials or work as carpenters in their spare time would be encouraged to do so.

The decree announced that "unjustified restrictions" on housing construction and the purchase of building materials had been removed, but did not say what the restrictions were.

Private construction has been discouraged in the past in official attempts to cut down on the pilfering of hard-to-get building materials from state enterprises, and also to stop people building homes exceeding the unspoken limits of socialist austerity.

State construction enterprises have in the past endured a barrage of criticism for failing to reverse the chronic housing shortage that has troubled the country since the days of the tsars. It was probably the state's slow pace in improving housing conditions which encouraged party and government officials to revise the regulations that have held back private construction.

The new decree orders officials to make building plots available and appears especially intended to encourage construction in rural areas.

Pravda said that loans of up to 20,000 roubles (£20,000), to be paid back over 30 years, would be made available to those living in rural regions. Money borrowed by city dwellers would have to be repaid within 25 years. The amount of interest to be charged on the loans was not specified in the decree.

The average monthly wage of a Soviet industrial worker is about 200 roubles.

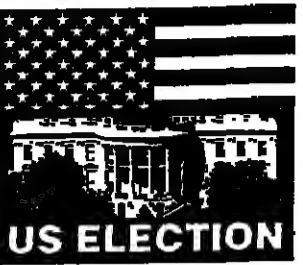
Rodeo rider Bush galloping ahead in the South

From Michael Bisyon
Washington

Vice-President George Bush is riding high in the South, confident and jubilant as he waved his new cowboy hat to the thousands who turned out to watch his horse-drawn coach parade in Houston at the weekend.

Transformed by his convincing win in New Hampshire, Mr Bush has been putting on cowboy boots, riding in rodeos, attending barbecues and displaying a fresh self-confidence as he portrays himself as a rough-and-tumble Texan in his home state.

Not only has he revitalized his strong support in the South, but he gave an impres-



US ELECTION

sive performance in a debate on Friday with Representative Jack Kemp, the New York congressman.

His conservative opponent failed to land any punches as Mr Bush championed the new arms treaty and his commitment to a more peaceful world. Viewers in Texas gave Mr Bush the victory by 61 per cent.

His new-found political vigour was in marked contrast to the brooding mood that has settled over Senator Robert Dole's campaign. Bitter still at his nine-point loss in New Hampshire, Mr Dole cancelled his participation in the Dallas debate and returned to



Mr Bush, dressed as a cowboy, waving to the crowd as he rides as grand marshal in the weekend annual Houston livestock show and rodeo parade.

Washington at the weekend to try to pull together his disorganized campaign.

There was speculation that he would turn to an old friend and adviser, Mr John Sears, who ran President Reagan's campaign in 1976. His staff have admitted that dealings with the media have gone awry, and no one could make decisions.

Mr Dole, displaying his notorious sharpness in adversity, was irritated by questions about his drifting campaign. "We're in this race to win,

not to nitpick every day about some little thing that may have happened." He said later: "I don't think I'm dispirited. I've got a bad cold. Maybe you'll get one, one day."

Nevertheless, Mr Dole is expected to win the South Dakota primary, which takes place tomorrow. Mr Bush, following his defeat in Iowa, has all but abandoned this sparse state, prompting Mr Dole to complain that anyone who wanted to be a national candidate had to run in every state.

Mr Dole said he was "used to getting up after I've been knocked down". Mr Bush, in a jibe at his rival, used the same words in Texas. "You learn that the rodeo is full of hard encounters on the ground. And you learn to pick yourself up and dust yourself off and get back on the horse again. And there's a lesson in that for everybody in public life. You don't get angry and bitter when you get defeated."

South Dakota is also an important test for the Democratic candidates. Governor Michael Dukakis of Massa-

chusetts, with a strong organization, is the favourite. But polls suggest that he is running neck-and-neck with Congressman Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

More important in terms of the number of delegates is tomorrow's primary in Minnesota. This liberal, northern state is a key test for both Democratic front-runners to establish momentum before competing in the "Super Tuesday" Southern primaries on March 8.

Minnesota is also make-or-break for Senator Paul Simon,

who finished third in New Hampshire, and who has announced that he needs to win in Minnesota or South Dakota if his campaign is to remain alive.

Meanwhile, Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee has aggressively challenged fellow Democrats in order to boost his support in the South. He has seen his support level off while the others have built on the momentum of the Iowa and New Hampshire races, which he set out.

Leading article, page 13

Shultz visit prompts Shevardnadze optimism

Moscow hopeful of strategic deal

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Intensive preparations for a fourth and final Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting opened in Moscow yesterday when Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, held the first in a monthly series of preparatory meetings with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

The talks began on an optimistic note when Mr Shevardnadze was asked whether he considered that a treaty to cut strategic nuclear arsenals could be signed at the Moscow meeting, which is scheduled provisionally for the last week in May. "There is a chance, there is a good chance," he replied with a grin.

Mr Shultz said that one purpose of his hectic round of discussions, which includes a meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev today, was to "energize" the Geneva negotiations on cutting present superpower stocks of long-range nuclear missiles by 50 per cent on each side.

These talks have become bogged down recently on several contentious points, including one Soviet demand for a limit on submarine-launched missiles — a main US strength — and another that Moscow be allowed to continue to deploy mobile missiles.

Mr Shultz, referring to verification procedures in-

cluded in the recent Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, said: "Compared with what is necessary in strategic arms, it is child's play. So there is a lot of work to do."

Mr Shevardnadze was in a jovial mood when the first of the day's three meetings began in an official guest house near the centre of Moscow. He joked that it was not such a good thing to be working on a Sunday and added: "But for this, you will have to blame our American friends."

A Washington source said Mr Shultz was working to a tight schedule because he has to fly back to Washington before a Middle East tour starting on Wednesday. Mr Shevardnadze confirmed that the Kremlin is anxious to step up its diplomatic profile in that region. "We want to play a more active role," he said.

The question of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will be a key issue at this week's talks, the first high-level contact since Mr Gorbachev announced that, provided a peace agreement is signed in

the UN-sponsored negotiations in Geneva, Soviet troops can begin leaving on May 15.

Mr Shultz, who supports the idea of an interim coalition government for Kabul being demanded by Pakistan — and dismissed by the Kremlin as solely a matter for the Afghans to decide — explained: "When you get to the end, which we hope we are, of a negotiation like this... it becomes a matter of details. You have to be careful that you pen them down correctly."

"We want to discuss the formula for front-end loading and phasing, as well as the length of time (for the withdrawal)," he said. "In other words, when you talk about troop withdrawal, it is a complex matter."

He hinted that Washington would not insist on such an interim regime as a condition for Pakistan's signing the peace treaty. "It is an important matter," he said. "But whether it can be worked out or not is a question, and we want to talk about that."

Mr Shultz, who made a much-publicized call last night on the Moscow flat of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Prize physicist and spiritual father of the Soviet dissident movement of the 1970s, laid considerable stress during his summit preparatory talks on the question of human rights.



Mr Shultz, left, and Mr Shevardnadze, exchanging copies of a fisheries agreement they signed in Moscow yesterday.

Pretoria revenge for Namibia bombing

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa sent jet fighters on bombing raids against Namibian guerrilla bases in southern Angola at the weekend, in revenge for the bombing of a bank at Oshana in northern Namibia on Friday.

The bomb, placed in a local branch of First National Bank (formerly Barclays), killed at least 18 people and injured 31 others, many of them severely, according to the latest official count. Both blacks and whites were among the victims.

Oshana, loosely called a "town" but in fact more of an armed camp, is the main South African military base in Ovamboland, that part of Namibia which borders Angola, and provides a staging-post for Pretoria's military operations inside that country.

These operations are aimed both at preventing infiltration into South African-occupied Namibia by guerrillas of the South West Africa People's

Organization (Swapo) and at supporting UNITA, the Angolan insurgents fighting the Government in Luanda.

South Africa immediately blamed the bank explosion, the worst incident of its kind in Namibia, on Swapo, which has waged since 1966 a sporadic and inconclusive guerrilla war against South Africa's occupation.

In Luanda Mr Hideo Hamutenya, the Swapo publicity secretary, denied responsibility, claiming that the bombing had been carried out by the South Africans to "smear" the guerrilla organization.

General Jannie Geldenhuys, the chief of the South African Defence Force, said that eight Mirage and five Impala fighters struck in two waves on Saturday at Swapo bases at Lubango, 180 miles inside Angola, and at Onjiva, closer to the Namibian border.

The prime targets, according to General Geldenhuys, were the Tobias Haiyeko training centre at Lubango and a Swapo "holding area" six miles west of the town where "Swapo terrorists" received training in the handling of explosives.

General Geldenhuys said that Onjiva had been hit because recent Swapo attacks on Namibian civilians had been launched from there. He gave no indication of the damage inflicted by the raids, but said that the aircraft all returned safely.

Meanwhile, General Magnus Malan, the South African Defence Minister, who is visiting the border with Zimbabwe where a farmhouse was recently hit by rockets, allegedly fired by guerrillas of the African National Congress, gave a warning that air strikes might also be launched against other countries.

"We hold nothing against the people of neighbouring countries," he said, "but they should be alert to the danger to which they expose themselves, should they assist terrorists in any way," he said.

The Government's strong words and swift action may be connected with the fact that it wants to be seen to be acting tough to bolster its hopes of winning back seats from the extreme right-wing Conservative Party at Transvaal by-elections on March 2.

LONDON: The ideological divide that has torn Angola and been the cause of a 13-year civil war which has cost at least 60,000 lives and nearly £7 billion may be closing (Sam Kiley writes).

Van-Dunem Loy, Minister of State for the Productive Sector, as evidence that the potential for a negotiated settlement with UNITA improves as Luanda looks to trade with the West. In 1985 Angola joined the Lomé Convention and last year applied for IMF membership.

Last week Senior Javier Páez de Cádiz, the UN Secretary-General, called for an international aid conference on Angola, and Mr Loy has appealed for investment.

The country's main export is oil. Output is expected to increase this year from 300,000 barrels a day to 430,000, and in an attempt to attract British investment Mr Loy will be meeting Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, and visiting BP, Shell and British Nigco oil terminals.

Polish strawberries await their financial cream

From Richard Bassett
Warsaw

At first glance, 3,012 tons of strawberries might seem an implausible line of defence for Poland's ailing economy. But for Professor Szczepan Pieniazek, the grand old man of Polish agriculture, strawberries — and in particular the revered Polish "ducat" variety — are a solution to the country's financial ills.

"In strawberry terms, we are a superpower, second only to the United States," he told an eclectic group of pomologists, journalists and American philanthropists, including Mr David Rockefeller, who had gathered in Warsaw at the weekend for the inaugural meeting of the Foundation

for the Development of Polish Agriculture. "All we need is more glamour, especially in our packaging."

The foundation, which has negotiated Poland's first large long-term Western credit of more than \$2.4 million (£1.37 million) since the days of martial law, hopes to harness what it calls "commercially profitable export action" to the one area of Poland's economy which remains largely in private hands.

Unlike agriculture in other communist countries in East Europe, 75 per cent of Poland's farming is in private hands. The foundation believes this has a vast untapped potential, although spokesmen claim the foundation has "exclusively philanthropic" objectives.

"There are no private gains or repatriation of profits," Mr Leon Irish, the foundation's president, said yesterday. He added: "The foundation will help Poland to become a profitable country, not by pouring money into the country, but by enabling Polish farmers to market with modern techniques their goods abroad."

Its first project this spring is to step up Poland's ham exports to the United States. Poland already exports 35,000 tons of ham a year to the United States and this will be increased to 40,000 within the next few months.

The profits from these sales will be used to enable sophisticated packaging techniques to be applied to the foundation's next project: the millions of Polish strawberries waiting to take

world markets by storm this summer. Polish pomologists expressed confidence at the weekend that the "Polish ducat" could outgun the declining Italian market (200,000 tons and falling) and even the small British market (40,000 tons).

"Cambridge Favourite is a very fine strawberry. We even tried to grow it here once," Professor Pieniazek conceded. "But you know, our ducat is really exceptional, surviving the cruellest of winters."

Organizers of the foundation admit that, if their work succeeds, they will be unleashing an agricultural giant on the world's markets. But in the short term, they see the benefits to Polish farming outweighing such threats.

Sinful TV preacher resigns in sex storm

From Charles Bremner
Philadelphia

Just as the brimstone was setting after the scandals that rocked American television evangelists last year, a new storm has erupted over allegations concerning the sex life of the country's most powerful video preacher.

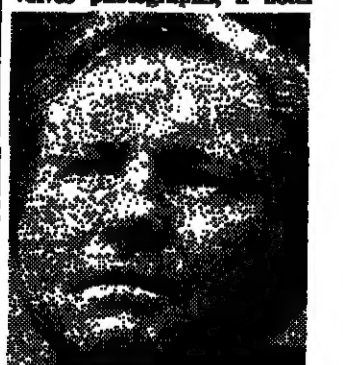
The Rev Jimmy Swaggart stepped down from his ministry yesterday amid allegations of adultery, tearfully confessing that he had sinned against God and his family.

He is the second leading preacher forced out of the pulpit by a sex scandal in the past year. "I beg your forgiveness," he whispered to more than 7,000 worshippers at his World Faith Centre in Baton Rouge.

The charge, under investigation by leaders of his Assemblies of God denomination, stunned the evangelical world because Mr Swaggart played a leading part in the condemnation last year of the Rev Jim Bakker, his erstwhile rival.

Television news has had a field day replaying film of Mr Swaggart denouncing Mr Bakker for his sexual dalliances, calling him a pernicious "cancer" among the God-fearing. "The only woman I have ever kissed was my wife," Mr Swaggart, aged 52, said in one righteous outburst against his fallen rival.

Church officials have said that their investigation involves photographs, a hotel



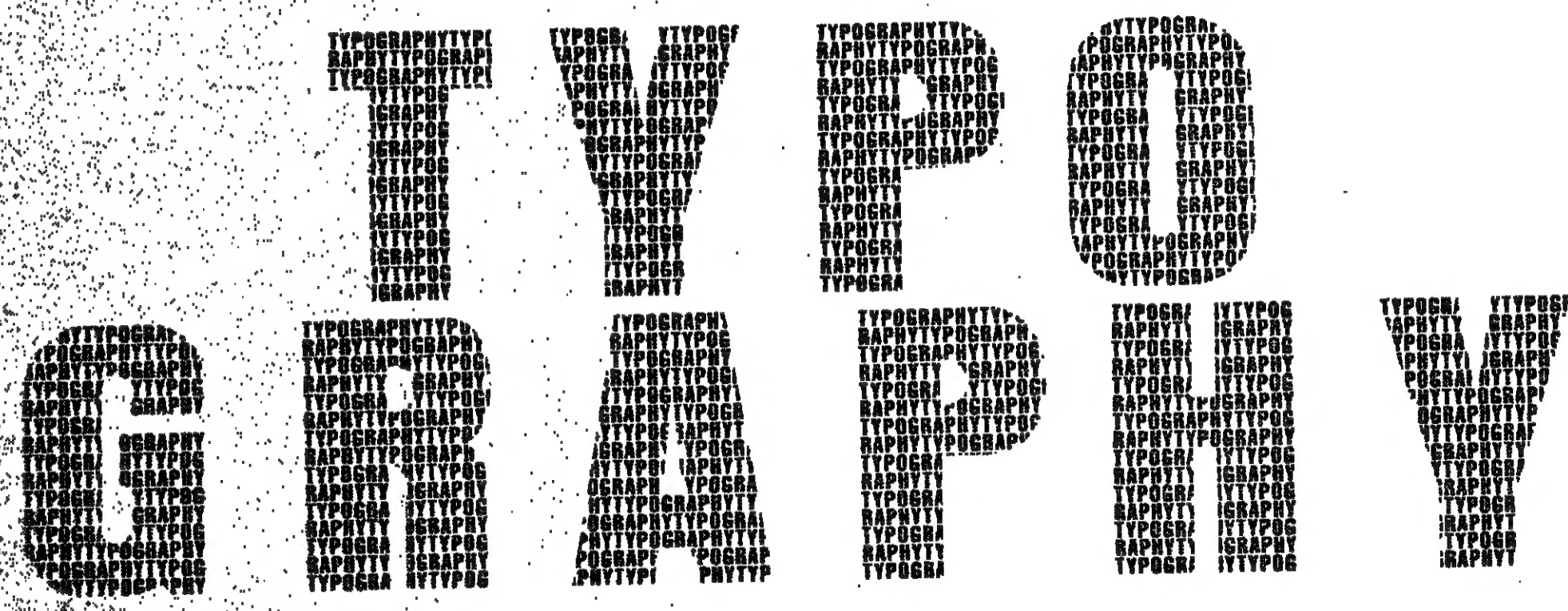
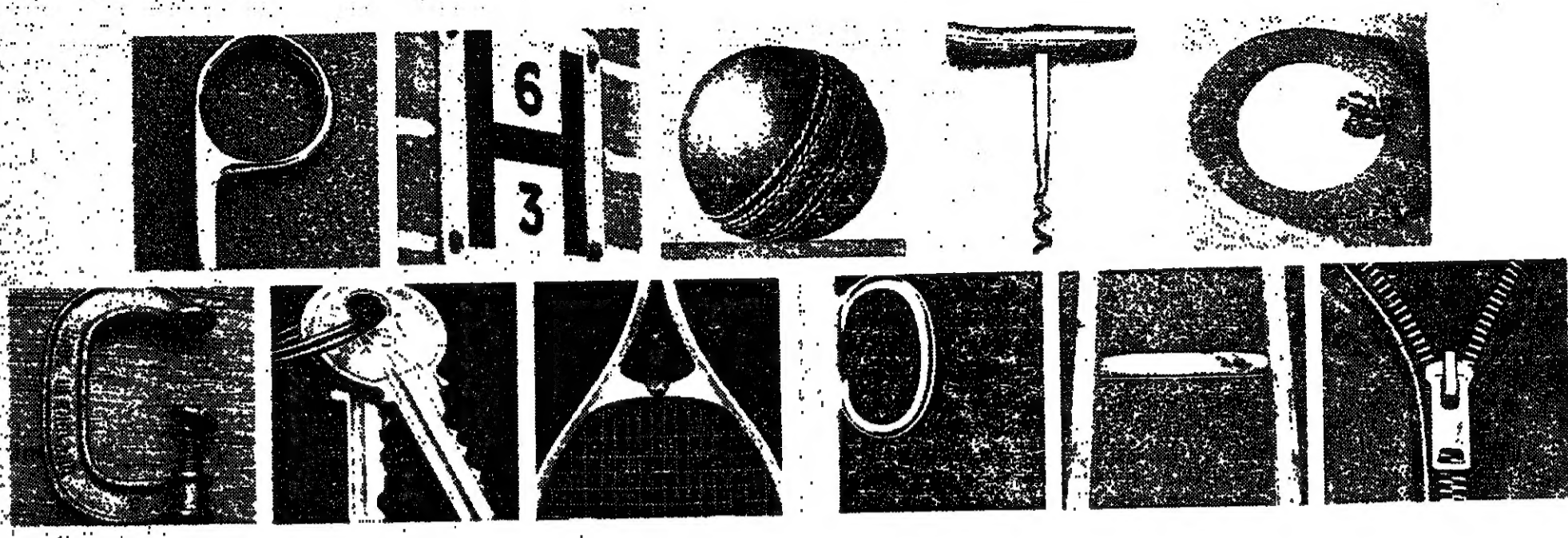
Mr Swaggart: Had sinned against God and family.

and a young woman. They also said that Mr Swaggart did not deny knowing the woman, but had described his acquaintance with her as innocent.

A new scandal, particularly one involving the most fiery guardian of sexual morality, is the last thing the "televangelist" business needs. The revelations of sexual hanky-panky and financial skulduggery at Mr Bakker's PTL network cut the flow of cash from the faithful severely last year. The big "ministries" such as PTL and Mr Swaggart's organization receive hundreds of millions of dollars in donations every year.

More public ridicule for the tele-pastors could also rebound on the Rev Pat Robertson, the Republican presidential contender campaigning across the South ahead of the "Super Tuesday" primaries.

Mr Robertson made his name as a preacher and founder of an evangelical television network. But now he calls himself a businessman and religious broadcaster and threatens legal action against anyone who calls him a television evangelist.



ONE FAX CAN SPOT THE DIFFERENCE.

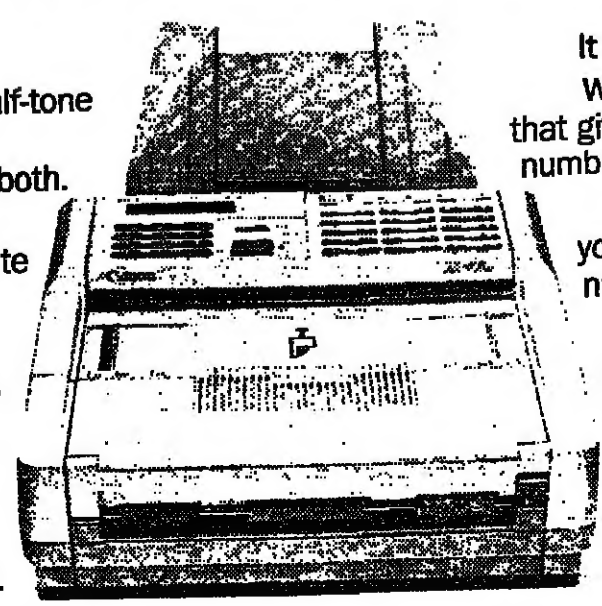
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Kissinger calls for Israeli pledge to cede occupied land

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Dr Henry Kissinger yesterday called on Israel to take a unilateral initiative and declare its readiness to place the Gaza Strip and some heavily populated areas of the West Bank under Arab control.

The influential former Secretary of State, whose "shuttle diplomacy" in the Middle East marked a high point of American involvement there, believes the *status quo* in the region is becoming unsustainable, but that the idyllic picture of an international conference leading to a conclusion through give-and-take in bilateral negotiations is a mirage. In his view, direct talks between the Arabs and Israelis would almost certainly lead to deadlock.

"The United States must not delude itself. Most advocates of a conference want to use it to manoeuvre America into imposing a settlement," he writes in an article published yesterday. The Russians would use it to increase their influence, and other members of the UN Security Council would also try to take credit for having made America induce Israel to yield.

"If the United States wants to avoid being isolated, accused by the majority of acting as Israel's lawyer and by Israel of betrayal, it must obtain clarity and substance before a conference from all parties that seek to participate," Dr Kissinger says.

The "ideal interim solution" would be Israeli readiness to put Gaza, the Gaza Strip and certain parts of the West Bank under Arab control and start negotiations on governance and security arrangements. But divisions within the Israeli Government almost certainly preclude this, so the best approach would be negotiations under US auspices, he believes.

Dr Kissinger, who repeated his proposals on television yesterday, listed the principles that should be part of the framework for negotiations under US auspices. Heading his list, he said, was a need for Israel to "face the fact that it cannot permanently occupy territory inhabited by a reluctant population".

He added that the Arab parties had to give up the illusion that they could achieve their maximum programme simply in return for accepting the state of Israel.

Jerusalem could not again be divided, he said. The areas ceded by Israel would have to be demilitarized under an inspection system, and either Jordan or a group of moderate Arab states would have to assume responsibility for the civil administration of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank territories given up by Israel.

"Obviously the Palestinians will play an important role in such an administration, but

not the PLO as a political organization," he said.

Dr Kissinger's proposals come as Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is discussing the Middle East in Moscow before flying to the region.

Meanwhile, Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, agreed on television here yesterday that the *status quo* could not continue. He supported an international conference, but said real negotiations with the Arabs would have to be direct.

● JERUSALEM: Two more Palestinians were shot dead yesterday in the West Bank, where tension is mounting in anticipation of Mr Shultz's arrival here tomorrow (David Bernstein writes).

The two latest victims have been named by Palestinian sources as Mr Kamal Fares, aged 24, of the Deir al-Amar camp near Ramallah, and Mr Ragheb Suleiman Abu Amara, aged 24, of Nablus. Both were said to have been killed in clashes with Israeli forces late yesterday afternoon.

The Israeli Army spokesman confirmed a death in Deir al-Amar, but insisted that no Israeli troops were in action there yesterday. He would not confirm the killing in Nablus, where Palestinians say seven people were also injured in clashes with Israeli forces.

Grim search in the Rio mud



Rescue workers in Rio de Janeiro looking for bodies around the Santa Genoveva Hospital, which was hit by a landslide at the weekend after torrential rains hit Brazil's second city. Forty corpses had been recovered at the mortuary by yesterday morning, but emergency teams believed there could be dozens more beneath the rubble (Mike Margolis writes). A state of emergency was declared in the city at the weekend. Unprecedented heavy rains this month throughout Rio de Janeiro state have left 234 dead, countless injured, and nearly 10,000 homeless. The authorities fear that the number of dead could rise to 500.

more beneath the rubble (Mike Margolis writes). A state of emergency was declared in the city at the weekend. Unprecedented heavy rains this month throughout Rio de Janeiro state have left 234 dead, countless injured, and nearly 10,000 homeless. The authorities fear that the number of dead could rise to 500.

EEC budget curbs

French play to farm gallery

From Jonathan Brande, Brussels

M. Jean-Bernard Raimond, the French Foreign Minister, will call into question today the curbs on EEC farm spending agreed with such difficulty at the Brussels summit meeting just nine days ago.

He will insist, in a move that risks plunging Europe into a new crisis, that EEC foreign ministers take a fresh look at mechanisms designed to stabilize spending on sugar, lamb, milk, wine and other commodities which were not examined in detail at the Brussels meeting.

Other nations believed that these "stabilizers" had been agreed before the Brussels meeting, leaving the leaders to concentrate on the more difficult cereals and oil seeds mechanisms.

Mrs Thatcher and Dr Rind Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, have threatened to tear up the Brussels agreement if there are any changes in agriculture. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, flies to Brussels today reasonably confident that France will not push matters that far.

The assumption is that M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, made these products an issue at the summit meeting in a show of "electoral machismo" to impress rural voters before the French presidential election in May.

French sources have done little to discourage the view that M. Raimond will today

take a thoroughly independent public line — and then allow himself to be outvoted in the Council of Foreign Ministers.

But some diplomats have sounded a note of caution. One said that he "would not be too ready to assume that M. Chirac blocked this at the summit, just in order to be outvoted when the link on the Brussels package is barely dry".

There are fears, meanwhile, of more serious problems next week over the implementation of the summit pact, when EEC agriculture ministers agree detailed legislation to put the stabilizers into effect.

Experts say that there is scope for them to build loopholes into the system, though Britain is threatening to hold up rules for boosting EEC funds unless the agricultural regulations are satisfactory.

Of more immediate worry is the French position when finance ministers meet this week to agree a 1988 EEC budget.

The European Commission has proposed that the agricultural budget be set at £19,075 million, but the French are demanding the full £19,250 million, allowed for under the summit agreement.

Experts fear that, if every last penny is put into the budget this early in the season, there will be no surplus for unexpected farm spending needs later this year.

Kohl's laurels fail to silence Strauss

From John England, Bonn

The recent successes of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in Brussels in rescuing the EEC summit and in Washington in winning time over modernization of US short-range missiles in Europe, are cutting no ice with critics of his leadership of West Germany's centre-right Government.

The loudest of them is Herr Kohl's political partner, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria and leader of the Christian Social Union, who has launched a fresh attack upon what he sees as "chaos" in Bonn — that is, damaging the coalition.

Herr Strauss let rip at a party meeting in Munich as Herr Kohl flew back from his visit to Washington — where the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, described him as a "hero" of disarmament efforts, and admiring senators congratulated him on standing up to Mrs Thatcher in Brussels. Herr Strauss criticized sharply the Government's "bad management, bad self-portrayal, lack of public relations and many mistakes".

He did not name Herr Kohl, but this score was clearly aimed at him in what appears to be growing unrest at the Chancellor's leadership. Herr Kohl is accused of sitting out problems rather than grasping them.

The coalition has a raft of problems, including a yawning budget deficit and a limping economy. Before the next federal election in 1990, it must also deal with such controversial issues as reforms in taxes, health services and pensions.

The problem lies within the coalition as much as outside it. Herr Strauss, for example, is also giving Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister and a Christian Democrat, a hard time over his plans to levy a 10 per cent tax on capital income.

Herr Kohl can expect more criticism from Herr Strauss, although the new-look Chancellor is likely to take a firmer stand against critics.

Letter from Delhi

TV spell cast by a Hindu myth

A bride was late for her wedding in the Satara district of Maharashtra. She explained she had been watching *Ramayana* on television.

Two new ministers were late for their swearing-in ceremony at the President's palace. It was suggested that they had also been watching *Ramayana*.

Hundreds of thousands of people all over India — including my Hindi teacher, for example — will not make an appointment for 9.30 on Sunday morning for fear of missing an episode of the television serial with a special appeal.

When a group of people in Bangalore found that they had to miss an episode, they demanded that the episode be repeated immediately, and threatened mass demonstrations if it did not appear.

Ramayana is India's most successful television serial, watched weekly by an estimated 40 million. The advertising revenue it generates amounts to about 10 million rupees (£450,000), 10 per cent of the monthly income of Doordarshan, the state-run television network.

But the story of *Ramayana* is as well known as a Bible story would be in the West. It contains no surprises, and is agonisingly slow to unfold.

It tells one of the best loved legends of the Hindu religion; Rama, an incarnation of the god Vishnu, born the eldest son of the King of Ayodhya, is banished to the forests for 14 years at the urging of his step-mother. He is accompanied by his brother, Lakshman, and wife, Sita. She is kidnapped by Ravana, the wicked King of Lanka, and eventually rescued by Rama with the help of Hanuman, the monkey-god. Rama's high moral principles lead him to put Sita aside, even though he knows she remained faithful to him during her imprisonment. She

Michael Hamlyn

Do seat belts restrict your thinking?



Somehow you can't quite imagine Albert Einstein mulling over a mind-bogglingly brilliant concept strapped into a plane with a pre-packed lunch on a plastic tray.

Or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composing his Horn Concerto in E flat in a car in a contraflow.

Can you picture a tycoon planning his next take-over whilst overtaking in the rain?

Some forms of transport, it seems, are just not conducive to constructive thought.

Consider an alternative. Consider InterCity.

First Class passengers sit relaxed watching Britain whizz past at up to 125 miles per hour.

They order food and drink from attentive waiters.

Briefcases snap open. Reports, previously rendered incomprehensible by jangling office phones, suddenly make sense.

Someone scribbles figures on a scrap of paper, devising a budget with tax at 20 pence in the pound. (We should be so lucky.)

Someone else attempts to recall Arnold Palmer's 18 best golf holes in the world.

Crosswords are cracked, often in record time.

A brilliant response to Karpov's latest opening gambit comes like a bolt from the blue.

People catch up on their reading, go for a stroll or formulate strategies. They arrive feeling fresh, relaxed, more alert.

Their minds have been stimulated, sometimes by doing nothing.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

INTERCITY

صحة من الامم

French play arm gallery

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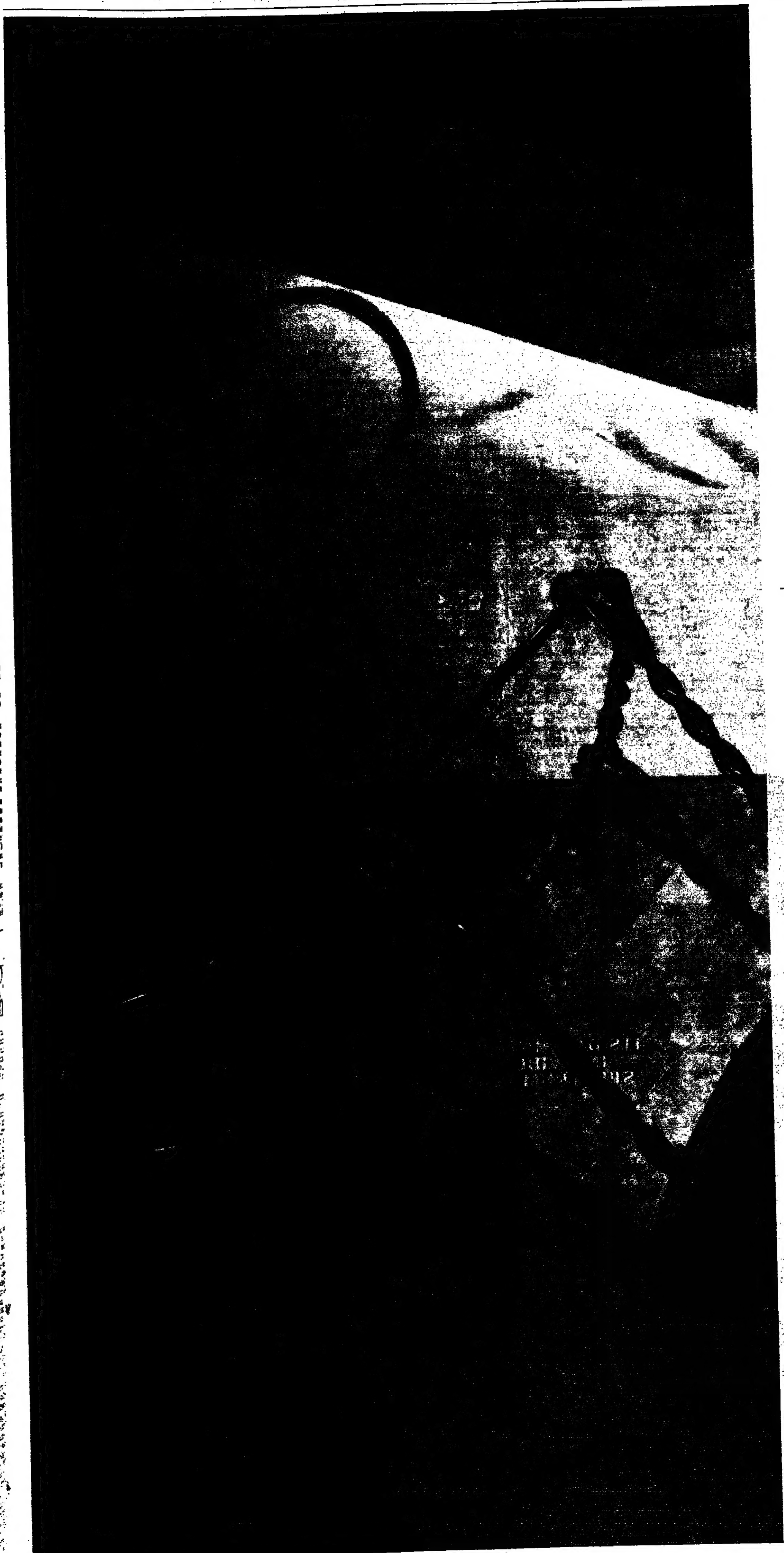
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Seized Basques accused of plot to hit French interests

From Harry Debelius in Madrid and Susan Macdonald in Paris

French police who captured the leaders of the French Basque separatist movement, Iparretarak, at the weekend found evidence of plans for joint action with the Spanish Basque guerrilla organization, Eta, against French interests in Spain, the state-run Radio Nacional reported in Madrid yesterday.

The announcement came as the Spanish Government was believed to have reopened bargaining with Eta in Algeria in an effort to get the gunmen to lay down their arms and turn their struggle for independence into a non-violent political campaign.

The possible resumption of talks induced the two parties in the Basque regional coalition Government, the Socialists and the Basque Nationalist Party, to patch up their differences at a 5½-hour session behind closed doors in

Vitoria on Saturday, after the administration had been on the verge of collapse.

The national Government had revealed last Friday its decision to go back to the conference table after a two-month period without any Basque terrorist attacks. But the Culture Minister, Señor Javier Solana, who made the announcement, did not specify the date.

That decision could result in at least two more months without violence, if Eta puts into effect its offer to declare a 60-day ceasefire once negotiations were resumed.

The political tensions in the Spanish Basque country had originated apparently because the Nationalists felt their leaders were not being sufficiently informed on the progress and strategy of Madrid's dealings with Eta. A collapse of the Basque regional government

would probably have strengthened the guerrillas' hand.

On the French side of the border, M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, on the presidential campaign trail, was cock-a-hoop at the arrest of Philippe Bidart, thought to be the only French Basque separatist leader not dead or in jail, and four accomplices at Boucau, near Bayonne.

M. Chirac declared: "French people wake up this morning to the sound of handcuffs being clamped on terrorists' wrists."

Yesterday the *Journal du Dimanche* maintained that Bidart, who had been on the run for six years, could have been given away by more moderate Eta elements, who found his continuing violence an embarrassment when talks with Madrid were likely.

Bidart, the son of a Spanish Basque political refugee, is thought to have had links with

the Basque separatist movement, Iparretarak, which he founded in 1974. He is accused of having resorted to violence, including the alleged killing by Bidart of four policemen.

During the weekend arrests, Bidart's number two, Joseph Etcheveste, was seriously wounded and another man, Pierre Aguerre, was hit in the arm. Yesterday, while Etcheveste was transferred to hospital in Bordeaux, Bidart and the other three men remained in custody at Bayonne. Under anti-terrorist laws, they may be held for four days before charges are preferred.

The Minister of Security, M. Robert Pandaud, said that Iparretarak was now practically dismantled, as police appealed to its last known member, Lucienne Fourcade, to give herself up.

Prince and the showgirls



Prince Edward talking to two dancers at the Moulin Rouge nightclub in Paris, after he had attended a charity performance at the weekend to mark the centenary of the colonial club. All the money raised by the event will be donated to international children's charities.

Ordination protesters mark visit by Runcie

Perth (Renner) — Demonstrators marking the ordination of women met the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, when he arrived here to preach to 4,000 Anglicans yesterday. He is on a 14-day tour of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Church officials and protesters carrying banners with slogans such as "Jesus was feminist too" lined the entrance to the centre where Dr Runcie celebrated a Great Eucharist.

The president of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, Ms Patricia Brennan, said that his visit marked a new phase in the struggle. About 40 women have been ordained deacons in Australia in the past two years.

Arias charity

San José (AP) — President Arias is to use the £208,000 he won from the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize to set up a foundation to help needy people in Costa Rica.

Six abducted

Asmara, Eritrea (Renner) — At least six European aid workers in Idaga Hamis in northern Eritrea were abducted by guerrillas last week, Western sources said.

Bomb battle

Dhaka (Renner) — At least 20 people were injured when political activists fought with home-made bombs at a ceremony in Chittagong, commemorating nationalist heroes.

Troops leave

Bangkok (AFP) — Thai and Laotian troops are withdrawing from a disputed border area after last Wednesday's ceasefire agreement.

Pay strike

Lisbon (AFP) — Portuguese railway workers and staff of the Lisbon underground system are due to go on strike today in a pay dispute.

Farm suicides

Delhi (AFP) — Sixteen cotton farmers from Prakash district of Andhra Pradesh state were driven to suicide by debt, the Press Trust of India said.

Socialists lift curtain but star is missing

Mitterrand plays waiting game

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French version of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark opened yesterday when the Socialists launched their formal campaign for the presidential election.

The part of the ghost was naturally taken by President Mitterrand, who is best described as the party's candidate-in-waiting. Latest word from the Elysée Palace suggests that he still intends to wait until mid-March to announce whether he will seek a second term.

In the circumstances it was strictly a supporting cast on stage at the Socialists' opening rally in Nevers in central France. But the choice of this pleasant little city is regarded as highly symbolic. Mitterrand represented the people of the Nièvre region in the National Assembly for many years and can rely on their support if he does run again.

It remains to be seen, however, if the Socialists can build up any real head of steam before the great man finally makes up his mind. His loyal retainers will have their work cut out to retain public

interest with vague declarations about policies.

As commentators here are pointing out constantly, with the vast majority of voters more or less in agreement about the sort of France they want, this will be the first time a French President is elected on personality rather than on programmes. "Le look" will count for a great deal more than ideas and issues, especially in the crucial television appearances.

This clearly lies behind M



Mitterrand: Still keeping his rivals guessing.

Mitterrand's choice of a waiting game. As President, he can ensure that he remains every bit as visible as rivals who are already off and running. Indeed, both M. Jacques Chirac and M. Raymond Barre are becoming increasingly peeved about what they consider shameless electioneering by the head of state (at the state's expense, what's more).

Since the two conservative candidates are concerned at present mainly with winning through the first round, they might be better advised to concentrate on roughing each other up. The difficulty is, of course, that they are obliged to pretend that they remain part of the same governing coalition, and the best they can do is to attempt to demonstrate their superiority as presidential material.

For M. Chirac, this means continuing to tear around the country in top gear, exhibiting the qualities of (relative) youth and boundless energy which one does not readily associate with M. Barre. In the vintage week that has just passed, he contrived to wear

all three of his hats, sometimes simultaneously: forceful Prime Minister at the Brussels economic summit meeting, where his collision with Mrs Thatcher will have done him no harm at all; dedicated Mayor of Paris; and candidate on the move, popping up everywhere.

It is still not clear what type of campaign best suits M. Barre, as his once handsome lead over M. Chirac in the opinion polls evaporates. His advisers are desperate to shake off the self-inflicted "tortoise" image.

M. Barre is in two minds — aware that his campaign needs more panache urgently, but wary of going overboard in its pursuit. In the provinces his weighty, unrefined approach wins widespread approval.

A successful blend of this reputation for solid and purposeful leadership with the more "human" side of M. Barre — his breezy humour, his virtues as a trencherman — would certainly give the Chirac camp something to think about.

Arrests ordered of 'heroes' who led Marcos overthrow

From Humphrey Hawkesley, Manila

More heroes of the Philippine "people power" revolution fell from grace at the weekend when warrants were issued for the arrest of charismatic young officers who led the rebellion which overthrew President Marcos.

The warrants linked them to the murder in November, 1986, of a leading left-wing politician, Mr Rolando Olalia. The bodies of Mr Olalia and his driver were found in the Manila suburb of Antipolo a day after they were kidnapped.

Three of the officers were close aides to the former Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce

Enzile, and were part of a network of right-wing military men in the Reform Armed Forces Movement which tried several times to topple President Aquino after she came to power two years ago.

At the time of the Olalia murder, Mr Enzile and the officers were openly accusing Mrs Aquino's new administration of being influenced by the extreme left. Mr Olalia led one of the main trade unions, the May 1st Movement, and he was a symbol of Mrs Aquino's leniency towards the left after she came to power. Less than two weeks after

his murder, Mrs Aquino reshuffled her Cabinet, sacking Mr Enzile as well as the pro-left Labour Minister, Mr Augusto Sanchez.

At least nine warrants were issued against military personnel on Saturday, and they followed the arrest earlier this month of a prime suspect in the murder — a former intelligence agent from the Defence Department. But late yesterday it was not clear if any of the suspects had been taken in.

The arrest orders were the latest step by the authorities to break up the "Reform" Armed Forces Movement.

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IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS

مكتبة من الامم

SPECTRUM

Questions of intelligence

● Starting tomorrow, *The Times* Tournament of the Mind will challenge all members of the family to a test of numeracy, logic, word power, and general knowledge. It offers a £5,000 prize for the outright individual winner and an IBM personal computer for the winning class in the schools' section

● Set by Mensa, the questions, will appear over the course of 20 days, becoming increasingly difficult. The top 10 schools and 100 individual highest scorers will then be invited to take part in a final series

● The first questions appear tomorrow; today some sample questions are offered and, as a prologue, Alan Franks takes a look at intelligence tests and discovers some useful tricks of the trade

Just as youth is wasted on the young, so intelligence is frequently wasted on people who cannot use it properly, or do not even want to learn. You might as well give a brand-new micro-light aircraft to someone who is terrified of flying. The deep injustice of it is that we are, as we always have been, light years away from becoming a meritocracy of the brain; Maureen from Accounts, though far "brighter" than the fat MD in the family business, is doomed forever, because of personality, chance and the rest, to process her boss's expense accounts and long for a full so that she can get back to her Virginia Woolf.

It was in just such a wasteland of discarded potential that Sir Francis Galton, more than a century ago in a London hall, conducted his version of an intelligence Quotient test — though that term had yet to be coined. Since then the struggle to quantify the unquantifiable has raged, and risen to rage again; for much of the time the front of this offensive has been mired in the no-man's land of scepticism.

Galton's method did not turn out to be a blueprint for those who came after: it consisted not of questions but of a variety of scientific props, pin-pricks and sound signals. Whatever else he failed to prove, he did at least help to confirm the opinion, still thoroughly watertight these 100 years on, that the brain as an organ (never mind the intelligence as a faculty) is far too strong a citadel to be stormed by such engines.

Let us not paint Galton as a blunderer. This cousin of Charles Darwin was, among many other things, the founder of eugenics, and one of the first to apply mathematics to biological problems; but the modern IQ test has abandoned the idea of scrutinizing the machinery of the mind

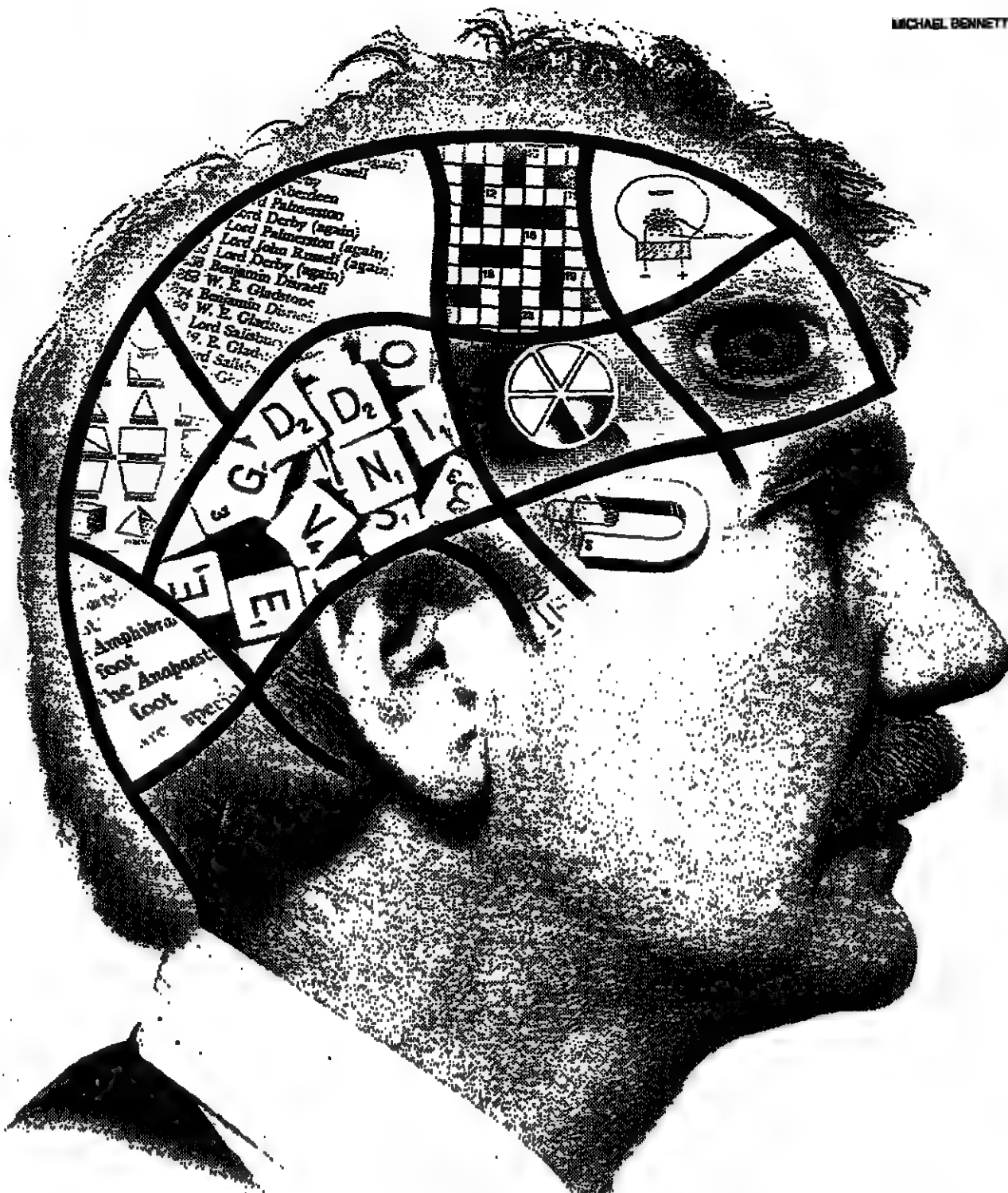
and concentrated instead on what that machinery can produce.

As far as being an indication of how successful you can be in professional life, IQ tests have a long way to go before they convince the general public of their value, which is why Maureen is still languishing in Accounts. Indeed, one leading American psychologist, Dr Robert Sternberg of Yale University, is devising a new test to gauge skills which, he argues, may not have been spotted by the established techniques — particularly skills related to work.

This is a sample question from his list in a certain town, 15 per cent of the people have unlisted telephone numbers. You select 200 names at random from the local phone directory. How many of these people can be expected to have unlisted telephone numbers?

In the United States, far more than in Britain, IQ testing can be a very hot potato, usually for political and social reasons. None the less the standard test, essentially the direct descendants of that concocted 84 years ago by Dr Alfred Binet to separate the sheep from the goats in the schools of Paris, are still in wide use in all but one of the 50 states. That one is California, where for 10 years civil rights groups have campaigned to have the tests scrapped; the claim is that they are in effect racist through having been designed to test the intelligence of white middle-class children.

Mensa, the British-based organization for those with a high IQ, is undeterred by the headaches of measuring a thing that cannot even be defined. Founded in 1946 by two Oxford barristers, it now has an international membership of nearly 90,000. The growth in this country has been so marked (19,872 today compared with 1,352 in 1976) that the association has had to



appoint a special British executive director, Harold Gale, an historian by training.

He ponders the £64,000 question — "How can intelligence be quantified?" — and replies: "My answer is that if we accept that intelligence involves doing the right thing in the wrong set of circumstances, then we can reasonably conclude that some progress in certain subjects — in certain subjects — should correlate to progress in IQ tests."

"I'll give you one specific example. Since 1975, Mensa has been running a regional competition called Superbrain, in which contestants' answers to the questions are then 'IQ-tested' to find an overall Superbrain in the year in question. It was won by a 15-year-old from Preston, Her IQ was 170, right off the scale. Already at that age she had 10 A-grade passes at O-level, and

was in the process of taking her A levels. Not long after I met her she was offered a scholarship at an American university."

The aims of Mensa remain principally the research and promotion of intelligence, and the encouragement of people who possess the commodity in like measure. But it has also had a more philanthropic and less well-known quest, in places as far apart as India and Sicily, to identify particularly bright children from poor communities and then fund an education suitable to their needs.

Intelligence can be a curse as well as a gift, believes Harold Gale. "If you want to achieve in life, you obviously need far more than just intelligence. You need to have personality, and often a good degree of luck." But he notes

that the majority of Mensa's members belong to the professional classes — not least the chairman, Sir Clive Sinclair, and the secretary, Dr Madsen Pirie, head of the Adam Smith Institute. And he recalls with evident satisfaction the case of a woman who declared: "I never knew I had intelligence until I took the IQ test." The realization brought about an irrevocable change in her life, and she became a lawyer.

One matter beyond argument is that the prospect of a collective test sparks the competitive impulse. "How able to account for the international success of Trivial Pursuit, which is really only the celebration of a certain kind of reversionary?"

Or, for that matter, *The Times* crossword, which is the same sort of thing but with the extra demands of erudition, familiarity with the classics,

and a command of the cryptic code?

To do either of these successfully does not mean that you are automatically intelligent (although if you complete the crossword, you almost certainly are); it means that you are good at Trivial Pursuit or crosswords.

The puzzles and questions which will be appearing daily for the next three weeks in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind are more ambitious in their scope: they have been set by Mensa, and incorporate a number of characteristics from the standard IQ tests, though at a considerably harder level. Indeed some were deemed too hard even for our highly numerate readers. This friendly-seeming one, for example, supply the missing number in the following sequence: 4, 11, 43, 7 — see under A last chance for practice for the answer.

A last chance for practice

LOGIC Which letter should be used to continue this series? A C F H K

VERBAL The following groups of letters can be rearranged into words which all have a connection. One of the words, however, does not exactly match the rest of the group. Can you tell which is the most obvious odd one out?

LOGIC MAPLE GUP XIAM

MATHS Replace the two question marks with two mathematical symbols to make the equation work. 21 7 7 - 3 2 1 = 1

MISCELLANEOUS Using the figures 1 to 5 inclusive, complete the number square by inserting one figure in each blank square. No two squares in the same horizontal, vertical or diagonal line are to contain the same figure. Four numbers have already been filled in to help you. What should replace the question mark?

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | | | |
| | | | |
| | 3 | | ? |
| 5 | | | |
| 2 | | | |

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. In which English county would you find the first iron bridge?
2. In Ancient Egypt, which animal was associated with the god Horus?
3. How many moons has the planet Venus?
4. Who wrote the theme tune to the *Pink Panther* film series?
5. What nationality was the Jackal thought to be in Frederick Forsyth's *The Day of the Jackal*?

The questions, as shown above, become more difficult through the tournament, as indicated by their scores. The answers to these, and *The Sunday Times* questions, are on page 22.

Quick thinking

The setters of the puzzles and questions cannot do your solving for you, but they suggest you bear these basic ground rules in mind to avoid wasting time and sanity.

● In questions involving mathematics and calculation, always look for labour-saving approaches and formulas which you can employ before persevering with sheer legwork.

● Always be suspicious of obvious answers when the question appears over-simple. In such instances, double-check the question carefully to ensure that you have not missed an important but hidden pointer.

● Particularly in the logic questions, lateral thinking can be of great use when trying to break an impasse. A perfect example of this is the question posed at the end of the main article on this page: the answer is 4. Each figure represents the sum of the two digits in the opening months of this year (January has 31 days; three plus one equals four; February has 29; two plus nine equals 11, and so on).

TOMORROW

The Tournament begins in earnest with the first set of questions together with the full details of how to enter



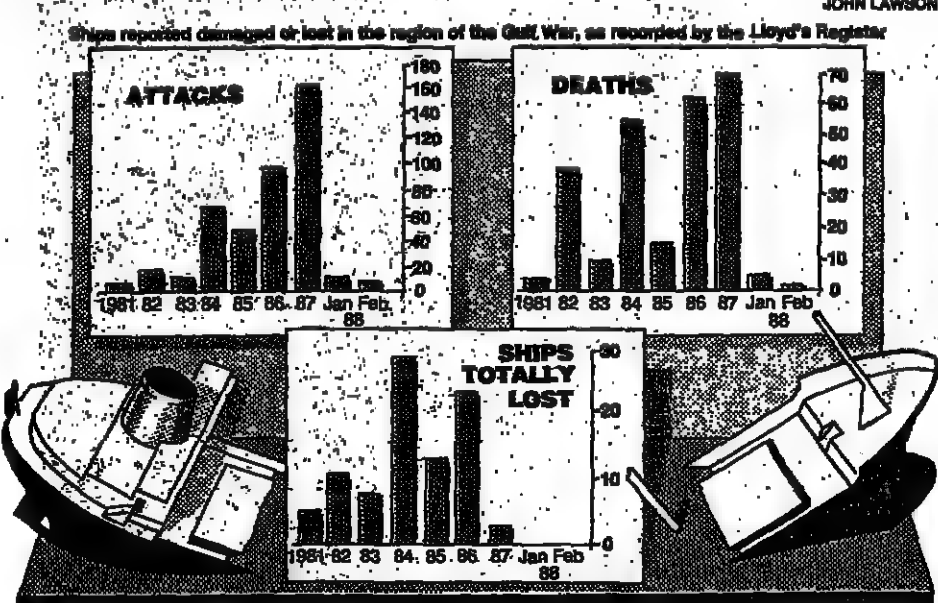
Running for cover in the Gulf war

The cost of insurance may be falling for ships sailing through the battle zone, but their crews still feel very much at risk

On a January 9, 1981, a 15,000-ton Greek cargo ship, the *Skyrmes*, was attacked by the Iraqis off the Iranian port of Faw and damaged beyond repair. She began a nightmare for shipping in the Gulf which has continued relentlessly, the *Skyrmes* now heads a list of victims that measures nearly 70 on a Lloyd's Register computer print-out.

Yet this month, the War Risks Rating committee of senior underwriters and brokers — meeting in Leadenhall Street in the City of London — decided insurance premiums for certain parts of the Gulf's war zone could be reduced. The threat, it was reckoned, had dropped significantly because of the success in clearing the shipping lanes of Iranian mines.

The decision to cut the sky high premiums (for example, a \$10 million all cargo from a Western Gulf port will cost \$3,000 less to insure) was good news for ship owners. But for



the merchant seamen who regularly sail the Gulf, nothing has really changed.

The General Council of British Shipping, which monitors all movements of British and UK-registered vessels in the Gulf, issued advice four years ago for ships in that area. It ran to 10 pages. Today, the *Iranian War-Gulf Guidance Notes* are packed with 60 pages of information, warning and advice, based on years of experience analysing the different strategies of the Iraqis and the Iranis.

A study of Gulf shipping attacks reveals the dramatic changes that have taken place since 1981. In that first year, only seven ships were damaged, but five of them were written off. Last year, there were 183 attacks with only two vessels "written off". Undoubtedly, the presence of so many Western warships has had an effect. The strategy now, at least for the Iraqis, consists of hit-and-run attacks by fast patrol boats.

The Iraqis, however, still go for prestige targets. Twice last year, they hit the largest ship in the world, the *Libertian*-registered 564,739-ton

Seawise Giant, used by the Iranians as an oil storage vessel (the *Horween* terminal) on Larak Island.

The pattern of attacks has not really changed at all: the Iraqis go for the Iranian oil tankers on the shuttle from Kharg Island to Larak Island, and the Iranis then retaliate with a burst of rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire against almost any vessel unaccompanied by a warship.

"We never say the threat has dropped," says Lya Burke, an official from the General Council of British Shipping, "but things are changing and we have to feed in all this information so that the masters of the ships are fully aware of the potential danger. Last year was the worst for attacks, yet only one British ship was damaged (the Gibraltar-registered oil tanker *British Respect*)."

Many of the masters on the British-registered ships are old hands in the Gulf. But even they are thankful when they spot the grey hull of one of the Royal Navy's *Armadillo* Patrol warships that will accompany

them through the Strait of Hormuz. Some of the merchant ships have taken their own precautions, ranging from sandbagged "dugouts" behind the wheelhouse to elaborate anti-missile devices.

One of Shell's experienced masters, Captain Jack Brown, from Castleford, West Yorkshire, spoke to me recently after his Singapore-based tanker had made a trip from Dubai. He had been accompanied through the Strait of Hormuz and into the Gulf of Oman by a Royal Navy frigate. "The tension is always there. At night, the only light comes from the four navigational lights. Everywhere else on the ship is blacked out. You can't help getting uptight. We all feel that we can't really relax."

"Before we enter the Gulf, we hold a special fire drill. Normal drills are not sufficient for an Exocet attack."

Brown, with a wife and two children back home, adds: "We have nothing to do with this war — we just have to get on with the job."

Michael Evans

THE TIMES GUERNSEY GILET IN 100% PURE NEW WOOL

This gilet or button-through waistcoat is warm and practical as well as being smart and stylish to wear. It is made in Guernsey from 100% pure new wool and has many of the features that make Guernsey knitwear so popular.

The gilet is made up with a tight close knit for added warmth and wind resistance and the strong, high-quality wool ensures that it is tough and hardwearing. The styling is classic, with a ribbed crew-neck, armholes and hem, with the same neat ribbing knitted across the two patch pockets. The gilet buttons through from neck to hem, and is also characterised as a Guernsey garment by the small slit openings at either side of the deep hem.

Suitable for both men and women, the Gilet is ideal as a stylish body warmer over shirts and tops and team well with a variety of skirts and trousers. The Guernsey gilet is a smart high-quality garment that has been specially selected for *Times* readers and is available in a choice of navy blue or grey with black buttons or camel with wooden buttons. It may be dry cleaned or hand washed with care.

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ACROSS

- 1 Arkward (6)
- 2 Cerebral staff (4)
- 3 Messenger (5)
- 4 Receipts (7)
- 5 Bad-tempered (8)
- 6 Roll up flag (4)
- 7 Large store (9)
- 8 Impulsive thought (4)
- 9 Severely scold (8)
- 10 Temer fit (7)
- 11 Awe (5)
- 12 Ship's wheel (4)
- 13 Ship's estimation (6)

DOWN

- 1 Pivot (5)
- 2 Hawthorn (3)
- 3 Laced PhD (7,6)
- 4 Most tattoo (4)
- 5 Confound (7)
- 6 Shop (5)
- 7 Window Shelf (4)
- 8 Great weight system (4)
- 9 Avoid (4)
- 10 Elegant (7)
- 11 Crum (4)
- 12 Decompression sickness (5)
- 13 Incompetent (5)
- 14 Ghastly (4)
- 15 Slope downwards (3)

TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

How far is Navan? I asked the hall-porter of my Dublin hotel. "Not so far at all," he replied, and I drove for an hour and said to a man standing on a pavement: "Can you tell me the way to the racetrack?" "Half a mile on the left," he told me, and six miles later it appeared — on the right. This romantic approach to reality is not confined to Irish folk from whom you voluntarily seek information. As the horses came into the home straight the commentator announced: "They are coming out of the final bend tightly bunched, a couple of lengths separating first and last." My horse at the time was 10 lengths from the leader, with five horses behind him.

But things have changed. In Dublin in the 1970s one stayed for peace and brilliant food at the Russell. The Hibernian was a serious, comfortable, professionally run hotel, the Shelbourne went in for pageboys who chanted in musical tenors the names of the people for whom messages had arrived and was frequented by the county, and the Gresham stood for quality. Now that the Russell and Hibernian have been demolished, the Gresham stands for almost anything ("gone downmarket" is the technical term), and when I went to the Shelbourne, instead of the top-hatted carriage attendant welcoming me back, there stood a Salvation Army lass shaking her tin. The "in" places are the Berkeley Court at Ballsbridge, and the most recently built, the Westbury Hotel in Grafton Street.

The dinner for which I went to Dublin was held in the Berkeley Court to celebrate the merging of two pharmaceutical companies. We were 200, started with fillets of raw plaice, ended with decaffeinated coffee, with only siren of beef and Yorkshire pudding and baked potatoes with butter to raise our cholesterol and put us in need of the company's wares.

My neighbour was the United States Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Heckler, which is a terrific name for a politician — which she was. Four terms in Congress for Massachusetts and then she lost her seat. What did she do... write the *Boston Globe*? No, Mrs Heckler became a Minister with the Department of Health in Washington — and when she spent too much money on National Health Care they shunted her off to Dublin. "Small embassy," she says. "Staff of a hundred."

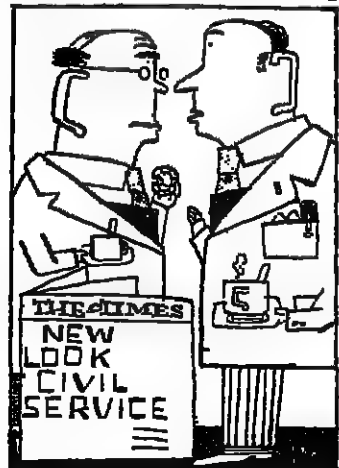
She has a high profile in Ireland, appears at every possible function, is punctuated about supplying pertinent quotes for all occasions — even the death of P.V. Doyle, the Dublin-based international hotelier who would have been our host — and when there were rumours abroad of a proposed second marriage (she is a divorced Catholic) they were scooped with the speed and panache of one who knows how to handle the media.

The Irish, used to having semi-retired US industrialists thrust upon them as ambassadors, warmly welcome a lady who grabs her job by the throat, and they admire her coiffure — finer than that of Mrs Thatcher.

In Ireland, the Quinns have always run the nation's grocery shops, brought in the first self-service stores and now, in Fergal Quinn, have a man who has brought the science of the successful supermarket to a fine art. There are two SuperQuinns in Dublin that have something of the style of Harrods' food department, with keener prices, less pomp and a staff that exudes kindness and understanding. "How can we help you find it?" is printed on their T-shirts and it is no idle question. They are brilliant at locating items you need, packing them from your trolley — ensuring that the fillets of wild Irish salmon-trout lie at the top, above the fresh mangoes, well away from the Blue Cashel and Jigginstown, which are usually erratic cheeses but here have been selected with skill and matured with patience.

Fergal is not only the master of all he purveys. He has been recruited by the Government to become overlord of the postal services — An Post is the title — and the Valentine stamps and St Patrick's Day cards franked for posting to any destination in the world are his successful brainchildren. In his middle 40s, he is also a keen horseman and owns a thoroughbred called Business whom he exercises daily; while thus engaged, his staff is encouraged to say: "Mr Fergal is out on business."

BARRY FANTONI



"Another's plan for Hyde Park is jogging lanes licensed by the new DVLC"

There is increasing anxiety at Westminster about government inability to halt the Bola (Betting Office Licences Association) plan to cash in on the televising of Parliament. The proposed game is called Back-bench Bingo: the bi-weekly coupons will be issued in respect of Prime Minister's Question Time and contain 100 names of little-known MPs. Punters will have to put crosses against four names and a point is scored when one of their selection is called to put a supplementary question in the Tuesday and Thursday Maggie-and-Neil Show.

Fears of rigging have been countered by the promoters' undertaking not to accept entries from Mr Speaker's staff and family. On average, about half a dozen members whose names are not on the Order Paper are called in each 15-minute session. There will be days when no listed name is called, in which case the entire pool prize is carried forward to the next occasion.

As the Labour Party listens and reviews policy, it would do well to ignore voices saying that last October's share collapse has burst the bubble of individual share ownership.

To restore confidence over future privatizations, share issues will probably be on an even lower premium than before Black Monday, and this could make them at least as popular. In any case, the question will not go away. Nearly a fifth of the adult population are individual shareholders, the total number having trebled since 1979 to 8.5 million (20 per cent of the adult population). The majority are "working class", including 3.4 million trade unionists.

It is now time for Labour to integrate a positive attitude to shares with its policy on "social ownership". Formulated in 1986, this policy abandoned old-style nationalization and emphasized democratic control, consumer rights, industrial democracy and a variety of forms of ownership, from local co-operatives to national public utilities.

A radical new agenda should begin with the reconsidering of policy on compensation for the privatized utilities that a Labour government would wish to reacquire. The buy-back strategy upon which the party fought the 1987 election offered shareholders a choice. They could either

cash in shares for the original offer price (which, in the case of British Telecom, had more than doubled in the meantime) or transfer them into new, long-term, "public enterprise securities" (similar to government bonds or non-voting shares).

It was a brave attempt to square a circle of protecting individual shareholder rights without rewarding speculative gain. But it was difficult to explain, especially to workers in industries like British Telecom, British Gas, the National Freight Corporation etc, most of whom acquired hundreds of shares. The policy appeared to both trade unionists in the privatized sector and the general public as a state "grab-back".

In the case of BT, 220,000 workers and some 1.5 million individual shareholders will have had their shares for nearly 10 years by the very earliest time it may be feasible for a future Labour government to socialize the company. A more equitable formula must be devised. Labour should adopt a more

radical attitude to the principle of share ownership than the Government has been willing to do. Despite Thatcherite rhetoric about "popular capitalism", "widening ownership" and the "property owning democracy", privatization has in truth been about financial gain, not spreading ownership, and certainly not decentralizing power.

Even if the new individual shareholders actually turn up to annual general meetings they are dwarfed by large and institutional investors, especially pension and insurance funds.

Although there are now more individual shareholders numerically, they possess less shares proportionately. In 1963, 50 per cent of UK shares were owned by individuals; in 1987 this figure was down to 20 per cent.

It is also necessary to look beneath the rhetoric of "popular capitalism". It is not very "popular" at all, as is shown by the fact that over 90 per cent of all private stocks and shares are owned by the top 5 per cent of the population. Labour needs to

address such matters as the possibility of outflanking the Government by aiming to spread ownership in a serious fashion, while at the same time giving real power to employees and consumers.

There should, for example, be legislation requiring every private company over a certain size to distribute shares to each one of its workers. This would genuinely popularize share ownership, rather than restricting it to the limited number who have had the ability to cash in on recent share bonanzas.

It would also open up the opportunity for trade unions to organize these worker shareholders and use their proxies to exert influence on company boards and at annual general meetings — as the joint trade union committee has already done in British Airways.

Where public sector organizations are in the process of being privatized, trade unions could take the first step and purchase shares directly themselves, in the interests of their

members. In the privatized industries unions should stop boycotting worker share schemes. Their members have not been listening, as the example of BT shows where 96 per cent of employees took advantage of share issues against the advice of unions such as my own. Unions should aim to secure representatives on the trusts holding these worker shares, and negotiate details of the schemes.

In addition there could be the opportunity to develop the successful Swedish experience of "wage earner funds" where a proportion of shares are transferred each year to employees and held by trusts. This could lead eventually to extending share ownership into the private sector in a more fundamental fashion than Labour has ever proposed.

Another concept which should be further explored is American-type Employee Share Ownership Plans (ESOPs). They now cover about 7 per cent of the workforce in the US and involve creating

trusts which borrow money and use it to buy shares in specific companies. In Britain nearly 1.5 million employees owned shares in the companies they worked for. This could be extended, as shown in pioneering ventures backed by the trade union bank, Unity Trust.

Extra protection should also be given to consumers who have been ignored by the Government. For example, the privatization of British Telecom may have been good news for the City. It also handsomely rewarded BT directors and senior managers who trebled their own salaries and gained handsomely from share issues: by October 1987 their personal profit on shares had reached a collective total of £2.3 million. But service standards have collapsed and customer rights have been treated dismissively.

The Labour Party should favour the principle of one-user-one-vote. In British Telecom, for example, every subscriber should be given a share stake, coupled with a right to vote and a customer guarantee on service and repairs.

In this way Labour can move with the times and develop employee share ownership schemes as a step towards a more democratic economy.

The author is General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers.

Alan Tuffin advises Labour to embrace 'worker's capitalism'

Share-owning socialism

Bernard Levin

Of modern human bondage

The other day there was a striking headline in our dear sister, *The Sun*, reading: "I had kinky sex to become a film star". A man was being prosecuted on charges of obtaining a wide variety of sexual favours by promises and threats. (He was convicted and imprisoned.) The practices described are not my concern; what caused me to start absent-mindedly buttering the coffee-pot instead of the toast was one particular detail of the claim that the *outré* activities were a *quid pro quo* for a career in the moving pictures. The claim itself, after all, is hardly new; I suppose that as long as there have been film stars there have been such offers made and accepted. The "casting couch" may not have existed in physical reality, but the notion it embraced certainly does. No; the sign that tells me that the world may be coming to an end even more rapidly than I had supposed is the fact that the young lady making the accusation claimed that she had been promised a career not just as a movie star, but as a *blue* movie star.

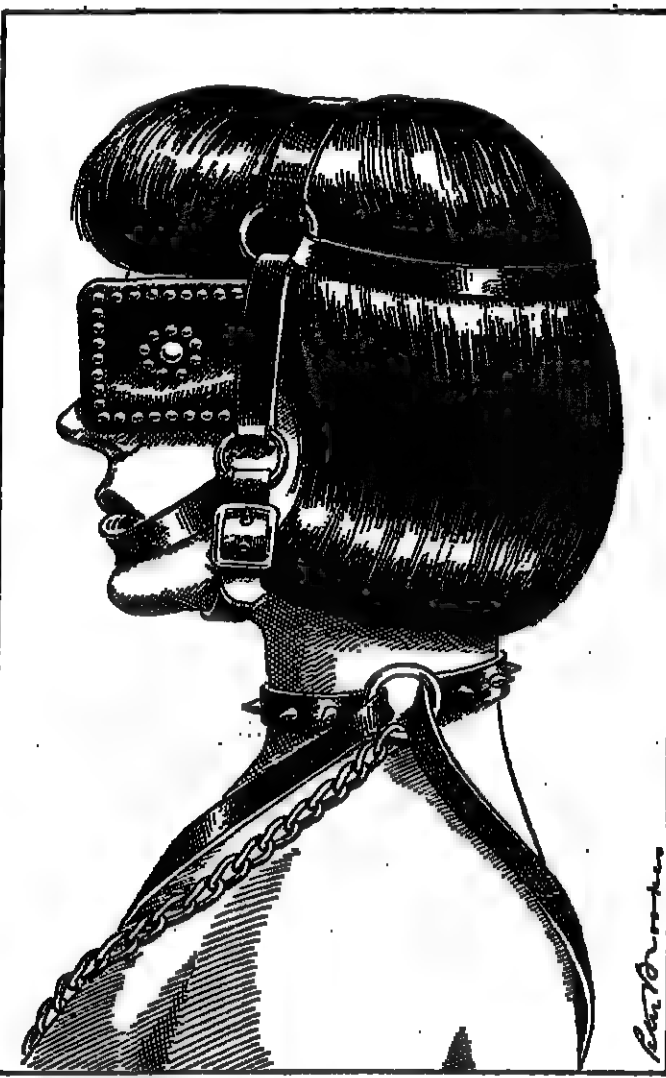
Different people have different ambitions; you dream of becoming a leading brain surgeon, he of making millions through shrewd investment on the Stock Exchange, I of conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the Seventh Symphony of Beethoven. All sorts and conditions of men and women have their dreams of success and fame, and there are as many dreams as dreamers. And that has always been true, from the day that Adam and Eve dreamed of acquiring the knowledge of good and evil. But assuredly it is only in our world — and not because the cinema did not exist earlier — that a woman can apparently think of no aspiration higher than to be a blue movie star, and is willing to subject herself to a wide variety of pornographic activities, many of which she finds (as was made clear in the case) repellent, in order to attain that state of grace.

"What do you do?" "I'm a blue movie star". As a conversational ice-breaker, that would probably fall short of complete success. But by the rules set out, the reply would have been given with pride rather than embarrassment, and for all I know the questioner would be despised for not knowing true glamour and achievement when he saw them.

Once upon a time, such a profession would be practised by stealth, and its practitioners blush to find it fame. It will be argued that today's greater openness is creditable rather than otherwise, and I have much sympathy for the view. But I am not arguing for the suppression of blue movies, nor indeed condemning the performers therein for taking part in them. I am merely pointing out that if a 25-year-old woman (that was the age of the one in the case) thinks that to become a leading lady in blue movies is the very best promise the world can hold out to her, then the limitations of her horizon must be so appalling that we really should stop and wonder how they got that way.

Pornography and allied trades have always existed, of course; Domina Albadomus was carrying on something frightful about Catullus fully 2,000 years ago. But the gigantic pornography industry that has grown up in the last two or three decades (certainly not longer) is without precedent; I am not, however, discussing those who want pornography; I am dealing with those who allow themselves to be pornographed.

There is an analogy to be pursued here. The old romantic belief that prostitutes went on the game because of poverty, having every minute of what necessity had driven them to, has almost entirely died out, and been replaced by the theory that prostitution is a business like any other, on that supposition the practitioners presumably regard their trade as a personal service akin to hairdressing or cosmetic surgery. And it follows,



a fortiori, that those who pose for the pictures in pornographic magazines or films take much the same attitude; there is no need to assume that they are prostitutes.

Now, however, we must move on one more step. Now it is neither shame nor indifference; it isn't even, apparently, money; it is an enticing and exciting way of life in itself. Pause for a moment to recall what "it" actually is. It is submitting to film cameramen in a selection of

explicit sexual poses and activities, and everything else that ingenuity can devise, and technicians portray in colour, for the stimulation and delight of the customers.

In a remarkable and significant novel, *The Fourth of July*, by Bel Mooney (to be published on March 14 by Hamish Hamilton), there is an attempt, almost wholly successful, to define the nature of the world of pornography from both sides — that is, both those who manufacture it

and those who take part in it. Whether the book is authentic I have no means of knowing; but it carries indisputable conviction. And it provides an important clue to the answer I have demanded.

For a very long time, the human race has had difficulty in coming to terms with its body. The uncleanness attributed to it since, roughly, the emergence of Christianity, has gone far to make it impossible for us to return to, or even to understand, the Greek ideal of the balance of mind and body; the mortification of the flesh must be one of the most dreadful and dangerous fallacies ever foisted on the world. For reasons I am too modest to remind you of, I am something of an expert on the 10th Satire of Juvenal, but I can still be enraged at the way his *Orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano* has been appropriated by schoolmasters and turned into no more than a demand that their charges should take cold baths every morning and stop masturbating.

But there had to be a reaction, and there was. The glorification of the body, especially (but not exclusively) the female body, has in our time reached an intensity that no previous age could possibly have imagined; Rubens himself would blush if he saw today's advertising hoardings, glossy magazines or Page Three Samantha's. The new dispensation, though not as nasty as the old, has fallen into the same trap; it is as one-sided as the schoolmasters could wish, with the difference that it is displaying the other side.

Nobody would expect a blue movie star to have a *mens sana*, or indeed a *mens* of any kind, and as for telling her to worry about her soul, we would be in danger of provoking a very serious mis-hearing. The only thing she knows about in herself (though Miss Mooney's book does explore the extraordinary and touching earlier life of one of the girls) is her body and the way

in which it can titillate or satisfy the lust of men.

It follows, or at least it has followed, that many women have come (been taught?) to regard their bodies not as part of an entity which comprises also a mind and a spirit, nor (as with the prostitute) as a commodity for sale in a straightforward transaction, but as a totem which, when displayed in appropriate poses, has a power and a character of its own, and which elevates the owner of the body into an empyrean where she can mingle with the gods on equal terms. I don't want to labour this point, but I do not believe that it is entirely coincidental that the word "goddess" is now applied very freely to women, usually film stars, whose beautiful bodies are their only noticeable quality. Miss Mooney's book shows that she, at least, has taken the measure of this phenomenon; it is another sorry comment on our world that she seems to be about the only person who has done so. For her depiction of the pornographers is even more merciless to them in their role as makers of such dreams than in their character as glorified poodles.

And so the trail leads back to the lady who was willing to undergo sexual indignities in order to rise above the common rack of people by becoming a blue movie star. It wasn't even, as far as I can see, a matter of going for the best deal she was likely to get in life; it was a belief that such a career constitutes not just glamour, but true glory. Estimate, to three places of decimals, the extent of the poverty of spirit and imagination that that fact implies. Then think about the nature of the world we have made, that has such poverty in it. Then reflect that no Band Aid, no Comic Relief, is likely to come forward to alleviate that kind of poverty. Then think of those women who deem that very poverty the greatest of riches. Then, if you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

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Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

Carve-up caveats

One prehistoric creature eventually grew so big that it developed a separate brain to control its hind-quarters. Something like that seems needed at the Department of Health and Social Security. With its £67 billion budget, and with the NHS alone the biggest employer in Europe, it is simply too big to be run by a single Cabinet minister, as almost any politician who has served in the department in recent years will tell you by the time you reach the cheese course.

Is there anything, then, in the latest batch of stories suggesting that Mrs Thatcher is about to carve up the DHSS into its constituent sections as part of an autumn reshuffle?

In one of the versions, the redivision of the DHSS is to be accompanied by the absorption of what is left of the energy department into a revamped Department of Trade and Industry, which would also gain from the dismemberment of the Department of Employment, whose training functions would be handed over to the Department of Education and Science.

There is a certain logic in such ideas. The Employment Secretary's role is not what it was in the days of beer and sandwiches in St James's Square. The Manpower Services Commission, soon to be the Training Commission, has taken on part of the work. Across the conciliation service, has another chunk. Once the electricity industry has followed gas into the private sector, the rump of the energy department might well be a natural fit with the DTI.

But it does not stop there. Other ideas have floated in the think-tanks which provide the nearest thing to recreation for the current denizens of Downing Street. Thought has been given in the Cabinet Office to having off the DTI's technical broadcasting and information technology functions, with the Home Office's broadcasting regulation responsibilities, into a new Ministry of Communications.

If the DTI is to gain lumps of the current energy and employment departments, some ministers say, then would it not be wise to have off company law, consumer protection and related functions into a Corporate Affairs Department, leaving the rest of what Lord Young wants us to call the Enterprise Department as a real Ministry of Business.

There is the problem. Once you start this business of shaking up the shape of Whitehall, you may never stop. And that is why almost none of it will happen. His fellow ministers cannot imagine the livewire Lord Young of Grafton releasing information technology, the one growth sector in his bailiwick, from the DTI. Nor can they see Mrs Thatcher, with her historical scorn for the civil servants at the education department, allowing them to take over the crucial role in training Britain's workforce. Ministers with practical experience of the field do not imagine for a second the would-be minister setting up a separate social security department, which would in effect be no more than the Ministry of Handouts.

If dismemberment of the DHSS were to be contemplated it is far more likely, they say, that the Employment Secretary, Norman Fowler, would have a number of the benefit functions

transferred to his department, with the administration of housing benefit passing to the Department of the Environment.

But why bother, anyway? As one minister scornfully put it: "Oh yes. You can just see the British public throwing up their hands, can't you, and saying, 'Whoopie, Maggie's split the DHSS. So everything will be all right in the hospitals now.'"

The Prime Minister has told her colleagues that one of the biggest mistakes Edward Heath made was to spend too much time on the machinery of government. With her, policy is the thing. She believes that, however ramshackle the machinery, if you install ministers with the political will, things will get done.

Mrs Thatcher will not preside over a major reshaping of ministries quite simply because she regards it as a time-consuming diversion. This autumn would be too soon anyway to dispose of the energy department, which will not be pushing the privatization of electricity through Parliament until next year. Driving through the lobbies for living off the executive functions of the Civil Service is going to cause enough upheaval, without reshaping ministries too.

What we will almost certainly see in that key autumn reshuffle is the elevation into the Cabinet of a second minister from the DHSS, and some limited reforming of the functions within that department. Anyone who imagines Mrs Thatcher is going to start, at this stage in her premiership, aping Mr Heath, must have been living on the remotest of desert islands these past nine years.

SCIENCE REPORT

Fifth columnists

Expeditions to the Scottish Highlands and to Southampton docks were advocated at this month's meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society as ways to test one of the most subversive ideas current in physics, the hypothesis of the "fifth force". The objective would be to decide, after three centuries of acceptance, whether Newton's theory of gravitation is incorrect.

The meeting was called by Professor S.K. Runcorn of Newcastle University, who is planning tests at Southampton, to consider whether the prima-facie evidence warrants a search for an interaction between material objects distinct from the four recognized kinds of forces — strong and weak nuclear interactions, electromagnetism and gravity.

The idea that there may be a fifth force has had physics in a tizzy since 1986, when the US physicist E. Fischbach and colleagues said that a fifth force could remove internal inconsistencies in data gathered more than 60 years earlier by the Hungarian Baron Roland von Eotvos.

Eotvos had made careful measurements of the gravitational interaction between masses of different chemical composition. Although these have generally been taken as proof that gravity depends only on mass and not chemical composition, by modern standards they are imprecise enough to raise questions about the causes of what seem to be large errors. Fischbach



said these could be explained if the attraction between different objects depends on their chemical composition.

This conclusion seemed to be supported by earlier tests by Professor Frank Stacey of Queensland University, who measured the downward force of gravity in a mineshaft and uncovered what seemed to be a 1 per cent discrepancy with Newtonian gravitation. His findings could be explained, as well as the attractive force of gravitation, there is also a short-range repulsion between massive objects.

Since 1986, there has been a flurry of activity to make direct measurements of the supposed fifth force, but the results so far have been conflicting.

Both the recognition stimulated by the experiments of something so revolutionary might have been lacking in

data more than 60 years old and the controversy it has engendered were plain at the RAS meeting. Professor C. Stubbins of Washington University claimed that his measurements rule out a force depending on chemical composition, whereas Don Eckhardt of the US Air Force Geophysical Laboratory said that his measurements suggest there are two new forces, one of repulsion and one attractive.

British physicists are hoping to help resolve the disagreement by making accurate measurements of the downward pull of the Earth with changes of water at Southampton and at Megget reservoir in the Grampians.

Only on one issue is there general agreement: if there is a fifth force, its significance for fundamental physics will be profound. Such a force must have a range intermediate between the long-range forces of gravity and electromagnetism and the short-range nuclear forces, which are effective only over distances comparable with the dimensions of atomic nuclei.

One task physicists have set themselves is to provide a description of the natural world in which the four known forces appear as different manifestations of one interaction between particles of matter. Though some esoteric theories could accommodate a fifth force, most people will be disconcerted if it proves real.

PHILLIP CAMPBELL

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THE IRISH QUESTIONS

"All these matters lead us to believe that in the constitution of the present police force there are serious errors, calling for immediate remedy; and to recommend that a total change should be made in the mode of appointment and the management of the local police of Belfast."

So wrote the commissioners investigating the conduct of the forerunners of the Royal Ulster Constabulary during the Belfast riots of 1857. Policing the street disturbances and, latterly, combating terrorism born of communal divisions in Northern Ireland, must sometimes seem to those who do the job, like an unending cycle of law enforcement... followed by external investigation... followed by reform... none of which makes sufficient difference to prevent the cycle starting all over again.

Now the opinion voiced by the commissioners is heard again. It has become a dangerously widespread assumption that the momentum of the Stalker affair will remove Sir John Hermon from his post as Chief Constable of the RUC. The only difference from 1857 is that this is being taken for granted before any inquiry into his own behaviour.

The case for further inquiry — not wholly satisfied by Mr King's statement to Parliament last week — is not a case for Sir John's departure. Events (and the interpretations of them) have thrown up questions, not answers. The information in the public domain is incomplete.

Those who oppose the very existence of the RUC have joined the voices asking reasonable questions — and can be heard drawing loaded conclusions. There is a suggestion that "nothing has changed" about the RUC. That is a distortion of recent history, which should be nailed before it gains any further currency.

Compared to the police force described by the Scarman and Cameron reports of just under two decades ago, the RUC is a force transformed. It has vastly expanded in numbers and scope, learned hard lessons by trial and error, broken down barriers which kept out mainland advice and expertise and

fulfilled one of the most difficult obligations ever placed on it during the violence immediately after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Above all, it has shown itself to be an organization capable of listening to criticism and effecting reform. The cycle of history is deceptive. Things can and do change.

But these are background considerations. In 1982, something went wrong — and it took five-and-a-half years for any minister of the British Government to admit publicly. The most eloquent evidence that the RUC itself knew that something was amiss, is simply that the pattern of killings came to an abrupt halt. Someone, somewhere in the RUC, put a stop to it. Two key issues have been thrown up. What, if any, exemption do we give to those who break the law on behalf of the state? When lethal weapons are used to kill, the dilemma is posed in its most acute form. Viscount Colville, in his recently released review of the Emergency Provisions laws, makes some excellent suggestions for legal reform. Mr Stalker's account begs the second, related, question — can anyone call to account a chief constable who issues his own definition of what is excusable?

The answer may be provided by the local police authority which is due to review Sir John's conduct. How far they can go in cross-examination, judgement or recommendation, is unclear. It is vague because custom and practice regulating the triangular relationship between the Home Office (and the Inspectorate of Constabulary), chief constables and police authorities, is flexible. The peculiar pressures and conditions of this case may reveal a need for greater precision — and a more powerful inquiry.

Numerous officials, politicians and policemen may now fervently wish that the whole matter would stop distracting energies which would be better employed looking forward. But the Stalker affair turns on that central issue which remains unresolved and it is therefore an important part of the future relationship between the police and society — particularly a society which needs protection from terrorism.

TWO WEEKS ON

Already there is the traditional talk of how dull it all is. Should the rest of the world become interested in the American presidential election yet? Is there anything discovered about the candidates so far which is worth knowing?

About Vice-president Bush and Senator Dole, much was already known. Among the other Republicans, Representative Jack Kemp has not yet attracted the world's attention and may never. The Rev. Pat Robertson certainly has. However he fares at the polls this year, he may never stop doing so, since he intends to remain a Republican force after November. He satisfies much of the world's not entirely friendly appetite for American exotica.

Among the Democrats, Governor Dukakis is now identifiable as the dark, efficient-seeming one; Representative Richard Gephardt as the young one with the alleged trade policy who in New Hampshire came in ahead of the old one with the bow tie (Senator Paul Simon); Mr Gary Hart as the shameless one who is staying in the race; and former Governor Bruce Babbitt as the realistic one who, on receiving very few votes — though more than Mr Hart — immediately left it.

Depending on which way one looks at it, this is either a small amount of information, or quite a lot. Either way, it is enough for two weeks — which is how long the campaign proper has been on. In an admittedly rough and ready way, the American presidential rites are already doing what the high-minded have traditionally claimed for them. They are letting the electorate know who the candidates are, or rather, the electorate is deciding who the candidates are.

Whatever the international newspaper and television space being devoted to these events, we can be sure that the world is not yet paying much attention. But much of the world's attitude to these matters is ambiguous. It

complains that too little is known about how we are governed. It yawns when, in an American election year, information on the subject becomes known by the day.

The newspaper and the film should continue to be there for those who want it. Information about what it takes to elect a politician at any given time is information about how a country is governed at that time. For example, it is said that there are no "issues" in this presidential election year. It is all "personalities". But this tells the world that the United States is returning to a broad agreement on essentials between its parties. It also suggests that, whether a recession comes or not, the October stock market fall has not brought terror to the voters or hope to the Democrats.

But, in any election, issues always lurk. If not now, they are the stuff of future campaigns and controversies. Governor Dukakis, for example, does not want the United States to interfere with Latin American countries, but wants the United States to stop Latin American countries interfering with one another. The issue which may confront him is how to reconcile those two desirable aims.

As for the Bush-Dole contest, on the face of it, it is indeed about "personalities". Probably, there is scarcely an issue between them and would govern in much the same way as the other — embodiments of orthodox, "boardroom" Republicanism. But Mr Dole is backed by agricultural and other interests which want more trade with the Soviet Union — interests some of which are from the old isolationist heartland of the mid-west. He might therefore be more amenable to missile deals and force reductions which would leave Western Europe militarily weak in the face of his supporters' trading partner. Here indeed would be an issue, for the world as well as for this year's American voters.

PRETORIA AND PERESTROIKA

At first glance, there was little in President Botha's recent speech at the opening of Parliament in Cape Town, to comfort those who seek profound change in South Africa. It appeared to be nothing more than a recital of measures to address South Africa's economic problems.

Most observers also assumed that these had been made necessary by the tightening of international sanctions. In fact, Mr Botha's policy of privatizing South Africa's state corporations, freezing public sector salaries and speeding up deregulation of the economy, had nothing to do with sanctions whatsoever. But it could be a far more effective instrument of change.

One product of South Africa's isolation is that it is becoming as impenetrable as the proglacial Soviet Union. Nor do the similarities end there. For all the lip service paid to capitalism and free enterprise, South Africa, through apartheid, has practised a form of tribal socialism.

A vast bureaucracy employs one out of every three white South Africans. State ownership of everything from power plants to the railways, ports and airlines, has provided protected employment for the poor white Afrikaner. For 40 years the Nationalist government used these instruments to re-distribute wealth and power within the white community.

The system shared all the sins of socialism. It had a voracious appetite for the taxpayers' money, inhibited growth and bred inefficiency and profligacy. Meanwhile, in the bureaucracies and state-owned enterprises, it spawned an Afrikaner society ready to defend its privileges — even to the extent of throwing its support behind the parties of the far right. The government's response has been to buy off its

army of public servants with pay awards — which made them the envy of the private sector and kept current expenditure galloping ahead.

Over the last few years however, other priorities have begun to outweigh this desire to keep the white bureaucracy happy. These have been the need to stimulate growth in the private sector, to improve welfare spending on blacks, to subvert the expanding black bureaucracies and to stimulate an appetite for capitalism among the black population.

It has long been a myth that capitalism is the instrument of apartheid. In fact, the reverse is true. Capitalism and its need for a skilled, stable and mobile workforce has been the major instrument in the erosion of the apartheid society. Mr Botha has long known that he could have capitalism or apartheid, but not both. The resulting abolition of some of the key elements of the system, such as the pass laws and the prohibition on black home ownership in so-called white South Africa, gave the blacks mobility and access to capital.

Last year, Pretoria tentatively began to deregulate the economy and to stimulate the unofficial sector. The result was an explosion of black entrepreneurship. In promising to curb the bureaucracy, to deregulate the unofficial sector still further and to sell off the tarnished family silver, Mr Botha is attempting his own form of perestroika. In doing so he will encounter problems not dissimilar to those which trouble Mr Gorbachev — the inertia, if not open resistance, of the system's apparatchiks. Whether or not they will win is an open question. For Mr Botha, like Mr Gorbachev, must know that perestroika, if it is to succeed, cannot and will not stop with the economy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editing books for today's children

From the Managing Director of Bookward Limited

Sir, Mine are the "shoddy little fingers" (letter, February 18) responsible for amending the Jennings books — amendments, I might point out, carried out by the author, Anthony Buckridge, himself, with a highly experienced children's editor, Margaret Crush.

The basic reason for the amendments is simple: the books were originally written for a contemporary audience in the 1950s. We wished to make them acceptable for a contemporary audience in the 1980s. It is an undeniable fact that fashions in children's clothes and speech have changed dramatically in the past few decades, and our editions of the Jennings books reflect those changes.

It is also a fact that our editions are as the author would have written them had he been writing in the 1980s as opposed to the 1950s. Indeed, if we can persuade Mr Buckridge to add a new title to the series — and we very much hope he will — the 1980s Jennings will be identical to the Jennings in our revised editions.

A matter of considerably greater concern than the amending of a few words here and there is the fact that in some quarters the whole Jennings series has been dismissed as "elitist" because the stories are set in a boarding school. Nowadays pony stories, too, are condemned as "elitist". I have even had one series of books by Philip Turner, in my opinion an exceptionally good children's author, banned from certain libraries as "sexist" because the books' main characters are three boys.

These are just a very few of the sorts of pressures put on children's book publishers nowadays, and while I cannot but agree with Mr Geoffrey Trease (February 18) that publishers must stand up to the creeping censorship of pressure groups, it is extremely difficult to do so when institutional buyers order, or refuse to order, children's books for reasons other than their literary and story-telling qualities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GOODCHILD,
Managing Director,
Bookward Limited,
10 Mandeville Road,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
February 18.

From Mr Richard Adams
Sir, At the climax of *Waterhip Down* the hero, Hazel, details two of his companions — Dandelion, his fastest runner, and Blackberry, his best brain — to undertake with him the hazardous enterprise of going to the farm to let loose the dog and draw it on to their enemies.

When the film came to be made, I was told that this wouldn't do. It was imperative that one of the rabbits was to be a female, and this

change was made despite my protest.

More unaccountably, when the film of *The Plague Dogs* was under way I was told that the character of the investigative journalist, Digby Driver (who is a rather unpleasant character in the book) must be changed to a woman.

There is, of course, a Black Rabbit *Waterhip Down*, but for some unaccountable reason he got away with it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ADAMS,
Beawell's, 26 Church Street,
Whitechurch, Hampshire.

From Mr Daniel M. O'Connor
Sir, The new bowdlerisers appear to have triumphed, and have apparently intimidated Jonathan Cape into expurgating the Dr Dolittle stories (reports, February 13 and 15).

But their victory is hollow. The generations of children brought up on these tales learned to love and appreciate black people precisely because Prince Bumpo was a brave, humorous and attractive character throughout several of Hugh Lofting's novels. Nor was he by any means a fool, as the vice-president of Dell (Lofting's US publisher) seems to think.

On the other hand, hostility to coloured people is nearly universal among the present younger generation of inner-city areas, in spite of the activities of the high-minded bowdlerisers in the schools and children's libraries. Banning such terms as "nigger" achieves little; the young have merely invented new expressions which are even more abusive, but probably unknown to the editorial directors of children's book.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. O'CONNOR,
23A Onslow Gardens, SW7.

From Sir Robert Lusty
Sir, It would be interesting to know if the present revisions to the text of Dr Dolittle have been required by the new American owners of Messrs Cape or originate from susceptibilities within Bedford Square. I cannot think that the late Mr Jonathan Cape would much approve. His false teeth were never a good fit, but they would be rattling around now to some purpose.

But surely this present tomfoolery has somehow to be stopped? How otherwise are readers of the future to become aware of the changes which have taken place in social attitudes and all the rest of the treasured books from the past still in demand are to be bowdlerised in these ridiculous ways?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LUSTY,
Broad Close, Blockley,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire.

GCSE discrepancy
From the Headmaster of the Cathedral School, Hereford
Sir, I write as a supporter of GCSE. In my discipline, such innovations as the introduction of course work and essays, exercises and the setting of differentiated questions, which also require an evaluation of primary source material (visual and written), the reduction in the content of syllabuses has lessened the need for rote-learning, a prerequisite for candidates taking O-level history. This, again, is all to the good.

Like my colleague at Malvern College (February 9), however, my confidence in GCSE has been somewhat shaken by one of the new exam boards. As might be expected from a cathedral school, we have invariably had excellent O-level divinity results — at least until last summer when, in preparation for GCSE, we attempted the joint GCE/GCSE divinity exam for the first time and scored a pass rate of 42 per cent (about half that of previous years).

Forty-one of these candidates, all but three of whom had failed, subsequently sat the O-level divinity paper and 37 were awarded pass grades (nine at A and 16 at B grade). What is even more remarkable is that nine pupils had improved by three grades or more. Granted, they were almost all 16-year-olds, but they had had to cope with an unfamiliar syllabus and had received only about four and a half hours' extra tuition on a voluntary basis.

No satisfactory explanation of this discrepancy has yet been given by the board concerned.

If this sort of experience is repeated in a wider range of subjects and schools next summer, public opinion may well force the new boards to become more accountable.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD TOMLINSON,
Headmaster,
The Cathedral School,
Old College,
29 Castle Street, Hereford.

Clergy and morals

From Mr George Goyder

Sir, I believe Mr Sumner deserves wide support for his strictures (report, February 11) on archbishops and bishops. For the past 30 years an influential body of the clergy has, by default, accepted and promoted the idea that the Mosaic law belongs to the Old Testament and need not therefore be taken too seriously by Christians. The result is that there are no longer any barriers to wrongdoing.

All the Church has to offer is "forgive and forget". With no firm lines to guide it, the permissive society has rapidly become the decadent society, and the way ahead seems downward.

Twenty years ago (November 7, 1967) there was a debate in the Church Assembly (predecessor to the national Synod) on the law of

Plight of military air controllers

From Mr Philip Baker

Sir, Once again the air traffic services and the London centre controllers are in the news. The controllers are overworked, overstressed and using outdated equipment. The public reads frequent reports on how unsafe, or otherwise, it is to fly over the south-east of England. No mention is made, however, of the military controllers who work on every RAF flying station and in particular at the London Centre at West Drayton.

One area of the centre is set aside for the control of traffic, civil and military, flying in designated military airspace. A few select controllers work alongside their civilian counterparts on civil radar suites. They have all the problems of stress and equipment limitations of the civilian controllers, but are hardly their equals. The Ministry of Defence considers controllers to be junior administrators and pays them as such. Military controllers, as a result, can receive half the salary of the civil controller working alongside.

On top of that, the RAF expects them to carry out all the extra duties of military service, such as base defence exercises (in full combat equipment), being responsible for social facilities such as clubs, and yet with none of the civilian advantages such as shift pay and free or subsidised airline travel.

One reads of a shortage of experienced controllers. I turned down an offer to extend my military controller service two years ago because, after 25 years, I was no longer prepared to expect a posting every three years or to be regarded as though my expertise counted for very little. Three of my close friends have left the service for similar reasons in the last two years and I have heard of more. Each has left air traffic control, not because of the job but

because of the way military controllers are employed.

It would appear to be an ideal solution to make up the civilian controller shortfall with experienced military controllers on retirement, usually at the age of 38. However, despite working together in common airspace and using common equipment, the military and civilian licences are incompatible. Studying for a civilian licence involves compulsory simulator "training" and is prohibitively expensive. Obtaining a licence is then no guarantee of a job.

The American Federal Aviation Agency has a joint licensing system. In view of the shortage of civil controllers and the waste of highly trained military ones into non-aviation jobs, is it not time that the United Kingdom adopted a similar policy?

Yours etc,
PHIL BAKER,
21 Myddleton Road,
Uxbridge, Middlesex,
February 16.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 22 1917

This account of Exmoor was prompted by the appearance on the same day of a letter from the Chairman of the National Trust, Lord Plymouth, announcing that, through an agreement with Sir C. Thomas Dyer Acland, about the future of his property, some 8,000 acres of the moor had been safeguarded for the future.

EKMOOR AS IT IS.

WILD LIFE WORTH PRESERVING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Even the war's needs have scarcely touched Exmoor. The uplands remain an unspoiled haven of our past — a place where the wearied brain of the city-worker finds that rare rest of open space swept by the free sea wind, where in every direction the eye ranges over undulating wild country, fading, gold upon gold, into the blue horizon, beyond which even on the clearest days there rise only faint cloudy outlines of the highest hills of distant counties....

On this free tableland it is appropriate that the wild red deer should have found in our far south-west one of their last strongholds in Britain. Over a space 25 miles in width and many more in length the antlered stags still fight for their harems as their ancestors fought before men had learned to fashion weapons of rough stone. They still follow their great prehistoric challenges, and the silent hinds gather dutifully to the summons as of old. When the stags shall have dropped their antlers for the year and the hinds, conscious of coming maternity, shall be stealing apart to secret places amid the heather and bracken, where they will lay their precious speckled burdens down, will the whinnying of a ewe over and our men be coming home again?...

Massed in a easily become merged in his surroundings, only one of the slow moving species that the buzzard, circling aloft on level pinions and fan-spread, barred tail, looks down upon. Unweariedly, with scarcely a wing-flap, the great bird patrols the sky, and to the listener below its shrill cry of all the vowels "a-e-i-o-u", seems to emphasize the solitude of the scene. So too, the croak of the frog, the peep of the toad on some inaccessible summit above a precipitous gorge which the human pedestrian scales far below, sounds like the forbidding voice of the guardian spirit of the rocks. Further on, where the headland, crested with jumbled crags like a devil's rookery, fronts the sea, a little of white feathers may mark the "stancer" on which luckless seagulls and penguins are dismembered by a peregrine, and even as you look the great falcon, with angry barking cry, may shoot upwards from some pinnacle on which it was perched invisible, and drift away in rising circles out of sight.

In summer, when every yard of the upward way is embowered with wild flowers, from the yellow horned poppy that decorates the sand below, to the dwarf fern that sprinkles the heather above, broadest with gold, the sense of vastness is lost in diversity of detail and bird life distracts attention everywhere. Each tumbling streamlet has its dipper in neat black, with a white front, howling a welcome to the visitor, like a well-trained waiter. Each pool, starred with marsh flowers, is the haunt of dainty sandpipers whistling plaintively as they skim over the surface on curved white-bellied wings; and often distant yelping calls with glimpses of large birds circling above the heather betray the breeding haunts of the curlew.

Just now the vastness of the undulating landscape of the open moor seems appropriately desolate. Yet, whichever way you wander, the charm of it grows upon you. The immense harmony of purplish brown, here brightened with tawny shades, there tinged with green beneath, fades into the grey blue of distance like a dream of life that has no end....

Training engineers

From the Director General of the Engineering Council

Sir, Norman Fowler rightly pointed out in *The Times* (article, February 17) that too few employers encourage their employees to train and retrain.

Six weeks ago we printed 10,000 copies of a major discussion document outlining a new national system of continuing education and training in which engineers would set up career action plans and keep a record book of their training through life. We were so inundated with requests for copies that within six weeks we have had to order a reprint.

At the time the document was first published 11 companies had decided to take part in pilot schemes. A further 25 companies have since asked if they too can join.

A survey of our 300,000 registrants last year showed that more than half had received further training than had done so two years before. And almost 30 per cent of chartered engineers and 37 per cent of technician engineers said they would be prepared to participate in a scheme which would record the training they received.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MILLER,
Director General,
The Engineering Council,
10 Maltravers Street, WC2.

University funding

From Dr A. W. F. Edwards

Sir, Mr Robert Jackson's repeated assurance that the Education Reform Bill "does not of itself mark a shift in the balance between the Government and the universities" (letter, February 10) indicates that he may not be fully aware of the Bill's consequences for Oxford and Cambridge.

An important part of the education and research in Oxford and Cambridge universities is conducted in and supported by their colleges which, in accordance with the Oxford and Cambridge Act of 1923, are financially and constitutionally independent bodies.

They derive their income from fees (paid by local education authorities in respect of the majority of home undergraduates), from conferences and from private endowments. They are not in receipt of grants from the UGC. They thus conform well to the Government's model of educational and research institutions which support themselves by their own efforts.

Accepting Mr Jackson's assurances, the inclusion of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges within the scope of the Universities Funding Council by virtue of clause 144 (1) must now be corrected.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. F. EDWARDS,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge.

Short in the tooth?

From Mr Gerald L. Wood

Sir, With reference to the correspondence about "tooth fairies" and the maximum rate of £5 per tooth so far reported, this sum pales into insignificance when compared with the £730 paid in 1816 for a molar belonging to Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727).

This tooth was purchased by an unidentified nobleman, who had it set in a ring which he wore constantly.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD L. WOOD,
(Editorial consultant),
Guinness Book of Records,
33 London Road,
Enfield, Middlesex,
February 11.

MONDAY PAGE

Readers of *The Times* are noted for their love of adventure in a new survey which questions the British attitude to holidays.

Shona Crawford
Poole reports

Never mind reality, look at the dreams. Owning a villa somewhere sunny and warm is the dream holiday choice of one Briton in three. The fact and fantasy of our holiday hopes and fears are laid bare in a new MORI poll which uncovers who goes where for what and with whom.

In real life, for instance, the owner of a dream villa is distinguishable from the rest of us by a propensity to be middle-class, middle-aged, female, and living in the South, with no children under the age of 15 still at home.

It is tempting to poke holes in polls. All the methodology of picking a balanced assortment of people to investigate may be spot on, but the questions they ask, and the choices put seem to close off as many possibilities as they open.

Is it unfair to ponder whether more than half of those questioned picked owning a villa somewhere warm and sunny as their first or second choice of dream holiday because the other options offered were, well... these? Lying under a palm tree on a desert island (my italics), the first choice of 15 per cent of those polled. Staying in a cottage in rural England (15 per cent); skipping a luxury yacht in the Mediterranean (11 per cent); staying in a luxury hotel in New York (9 per cent); walking in the Himalayas (6 per cent); touring the night spots of Bangkok (3 per cent); shooting the rapids in South America (2 per cent).

No chance here to go for skiing action or the more sedentary thrills of safari. And what would the response have been to a luxury holiday in Florida or California instead of New York or to seeing the sights of the Far East not from a Bangkok bar stool but from the deck of a well-appointed cruise ship?

However, the resulting statistics on the desirability of villa ownership are interestingly consistent with another of the survey's principal findings, which is that "doing things exactly when you choose" is the most important ingredient in most people's idea of a good holiday. Asked to pick three or four phrases that came closest to their idea of a good holiday from a long list of possibilities, 56 per cent plumped for freedom of action, two in five rated "escape from stress and strain" very highly, and one in three mentioned "peace and quiet". About three in 10 people want



Casas in the air

"freedom from responsibilities".

Women were found to be keener than men on using a holiday to do things exactly when they choose, and to place higher value on escaping from responsibilities. But when it came to escaping from stress and strain, the sexes were equal.

Social class, the researchers discovered, produced only one noticeable difference of attitude: middle-class holidaymakers are more interested in experiencing "a different culture" than working-class travellers.

The pollsters, of course, find the results fascinating. Robert Worcester, chairman of MORI, says: "One of the most interesting things in this new survey is the change since 1984 when we asked people where they would like to go on their holidays. Then 30 per cent (now 38 per cent) wanted to stay in Britain, 30 per cent (now 40 per cent) wanted to go abroad, and 10 per cent (now 19 per cent) wanted to go further afield.

"Now nearly eight million Brit-

ons, plus their children, look outside Europe for their holidays. This is not only a reflection of the strength of sterling and four years of rising prosperity and disposable income, but has serious implications for Britain's balance of payments. It even has implications for imports and exports. When the British see big American fridges, they want them and buy them. This means it is important for Britain to increase its own tourist inflow to make up the difference.

It was only to be expected that readers of *The Times* should be more adventurous than subscribers to any other daily newspaper; more than twice the average number chose "having an adventure" as their idea of a good holiday. Compared with readers of the other "heavies", they are less interested in seeking "peace and quiet" but more anxious to escape the telephone.

When it comes to where to go, nearly half the readers of this newspaper, 46 per cent, would plump for Europe and only 18 per cent choose to holiday in Britain. Consistent with their taste for adventure, more *Times* readers

than those of any other daily or Sunday newspaper — 36 per cent — say they would prefer a long-haul holiday.

Putting their money where their preferences are, more readers of *The Times*, 57 per cent, chose somewhere new for their main holiday last year than those of any other newspaper. And *Times* readers top the charts for tropical travel, with 27 per cent seeking heat.

Almost two thirds (64 per cent) of the adult population took a main holiday away from their homes in the last 12 months, which means that more than a third did not. Those less likely to have been away on holiday include families with children aged five or under (59 per cent).

Of those who did go away on holiday, two in five stayed in a hotel, one in four rented self-catering accommodation, and one in six went caravanning or camping.

The MORI survey, titled *The Great British Holidaymaker*, was carried out for the property manage-

ment company GTS Leisurecare. It shows that while a second home in the sun is a widely shared aspiration, the cares of cash-ownership can weigh heavily, even in day-dream-land.

Care and maintenance of a holiday home in the owner's absence and being tied to returning to the same place each year are the disadvantages of property ownership seen by 26 per cent of all those surveyed. Among the few who have done the deed and bought holiday homes in the sun, the maintenance worries rise to 41 per cent, but concerns about returning to the same place recede and are expressed by only 19 per cent in practice.

Owners of holiday properties abroad, including time-sharers, tend to be more middle-aged, middle-class and predominantly from the Midlands and the South of England than the average population, say the pollsters. But they are cautious about their figures: fewer than one per cent of the 1,778 people questioned now own their own property abroad, and a similarly small number have time share-interests outside Britain.

ESCAPE TO PERFECTION

● The essence of a good holiday is having the freedom to do exactly what you want when you choose

Readers of *The Times*, *Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express*, *Today*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mirror* and *The Star* all agreed that the freedom to do as you wish was a priority. Readers of *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Daily Record* felt it more important to be able to escape from stress and strain.

● Being burgled is the biggest worry about going away on holiday

Readers of eight of the national daily newspapers, *The Times* included, agreed that the possibility of your home being broken into while you were away was the worry most likely to cause sleepless holiday nights. Readers of *The Telegraph*, however, expressed equal anxiety about the rowdiness of other holidaymakers — and this was considered the most pressing problem by *The Guardian's* readers.

Today's readers feared most that their car might break down (although whether this was on the way to the airport or on holiday was not clear) and *The Independent's* that, on arrival, they might find

their hotel or apartment only half built.

● Happiness is a heavenly hotel...

Everyone agreed that the type of accommodation they preferred to stay in was a hotel — except readers of *The Guardian*, who prefer to rent self-catering flats, cottages or villas.

● Europe is our preferred destination (our Britain)

Holidaying in Britain has little appeal, except for readers of *Today*, the *Mirror*, *The Star* and *The Sun*. Everyone believed that a moderate, southern European climate is the holiday ideal and for readers of seven of the national daily newspapers, *The Times* included, the rest of Europe remains their main holiday destination.

● All we want is a villa somewhere...

Readers of eight of the national daily newspapers, *The Times* included, agreed that the holiday of their dreams would be spent in their own villa. Readers of *Today* — in contrast to readers of *The Guardian* and *The Independent*, who think it would be bliss to go walking in the Himalayas — would prefer to lie under a palm tree on a desert island.

ESCAPE TO ADVENTURE

The Times readers are the most adventurous holiday makers among the survey of national daily newspaper readers — 23 per cent say adventure is one of the most vital constituents of a good holiday and 34 per cent believe the tropical climate of far-flung destinations an important consideration.

But over the past 12 months, *The Times* readers most likely holiday destination will have been a hotel in a part of southern Europe that enjoys a moderate climate.

Destinations promising "exciting night life" are not a favourite, and holidaying in rural England or in New York (even in a luxury hotel) has little appeal. Their "dream holiday" would be spent in their own villa (walking in the Himalayas and skipping a luxury yacht around the Mediterranean are other popular holiday-dreams), yet few currently own, or

time-share, a property abroad.

While nearly half of *Times* readers surveyed said they would like to own a property abroad, the prospect of finding someone to manage a villa when they are not in residence seems to have deterred many.

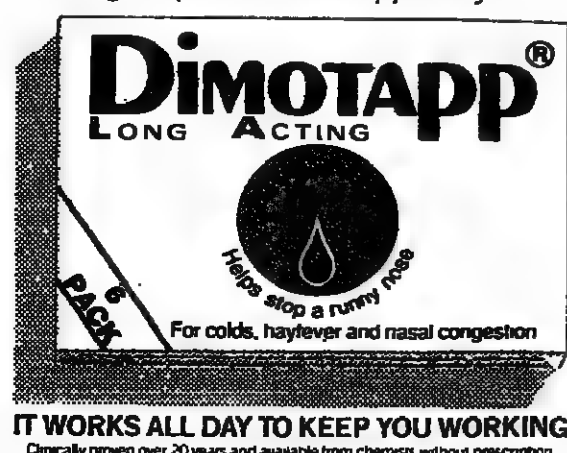
One in four have not taken a holiday away from home in the past year but when they are at leisure abroad, *Times* readers particularly enjoy the freedom to do as they wish when they wish; they do not enjoy worrying about the security of their homes while they are away or losing their luggage (they do it anyway) but seem blissfully free from the squabbles that familiarity can breed when holidaying.

Source: *The Great British Holidaymaker*, January 1988. Fieldwork carried out by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International) between January 8-12, 1988 in 174 sampling points throughout Britain.

A BLOW FOR THE NOSE.



From now on you need never let a runny nose ruin your day. One long acting Dimotapp tablet will keep you dry for up to 12 hours. Just take one going to work and relax, because it won't cause drowsiness in most people. Go on. Strike a blow for your runny nose: get a pack of Dimotapp today.



It WORKS ALL DAY TO KEEP YOU WORKING. Clinically proven over 20 years and available from chemists without prescription.

Rights of men

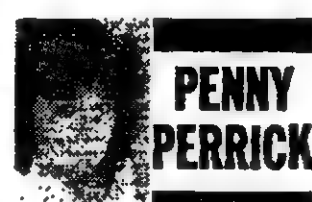
Although experience constantly proves otherwise, most women persist in believing that anything produced by men for men incorporates a stern perfection. We hold the Savile Row suit in deep regard, even though it is cut in such a way that when the wearer sits down, the trouser leg rides up and reveals too much pale calf. We think of men's clubs as deliciously arcane, even when an invitation to one results in an overdue chop and a crowd of bores drinking over-iced gin and tonics.

Always over-impressed at the thought of entering a man's world, I had high hopes of flying to Brussels on the Euro-City Express, from the new London City Airport, lured by its minimum check-in time and the short take-off and landing performance of the Dash 7. And indeed, the check-in time was minimal, the take-off instant and every passenger with the exception of myself male.

In circumstances like these, one tends to become invisible. I imagine the thinking goes: "The Euro-City Express was not designed for women (women, having no business with business, should be confined to the screen at Gatwick while taking the kids to Spain), therefore I will pretend that the woman across the aisle isn't really there."

The conversation with the kind man was in unbroken company. One expressed a wish to visit Australia so that he might learn some really good dirty songs. Several made overtures to the stewardesses, who coped beautifully by explaining all about their boyfriends: in Hovechurch, Essex, to whom they were practically engaged.

Behind me, an Englishman, who spoke in the plummy tones of Eton, Christchurch and the Guards, was explain-



ing his business in Brussels, which turned out to be a romantic assignment with "one of the two women I want to marry". I turned round to have a look at the speaker, to find that he wasn't an Englishman at all but a sweet-faced young Chinese who said that he was a Muslim. So that was all right.

It was on the return flight that the flaws in this male-tailored world began to show. Taxes were ordered to meet us at the airport. On arrival, the forecast was so empty as the Sahara. At which point, all the important tycoons with bulging briefcases accepted the situation mildly and got on a bus, and I made such a song and dance that the Airport Director drove me to the office. This was called typical female hysteria and it worked a treat.

Later that afternoon, another director rang to say that he believed I had certain criticisms about the airline uniforms, which indeed I had, as they were made of seamy stuff that revealed bra-strings and vests. I suggested a much prettier one incorporating the airport's logo in a printed cotton and he marvelled at my creativity and acumen.

I think that this was his first example of what is known as the woman's touch. What a shame they hadn't thought of bringing it in somewhat earlier in the proceedings, since women are really so much better at designing suits, creating restaurants and making sure that taxis are there when they are needed.

How the author of steamy Sixties best-sellers has become a feminist inspiration

Valley of the shadows

Fifteen years ago, Barbara Seaman, an activist in the women's movement in America and author of several serious books on health, met Jacqueline Susann in a doctor's surgery. After *Valley of the Dolls* in 1966 and *The Love Machine* three years later, Susann had become the queen of the best-seller lists.

"I suppose I had the same feeling about her that a lot of other writers had, a resentment and contempt," Seaman remembers. "But I was touched when I saw her that day. She was extremely ill, fragile and... sensitive."

The following morning Seaman was amazed to see Susann — complete with wig and false eyelashes — energetically peddling her latest offering, *Once Is Not Enough*, on breakfast television.

By September, 1974, 18 months after that brief encounter, Susann was dead of the cancer which had begun to creep through her body 12 years earlier. When, in 1980, Seaman's publisher suggested that she write Susann's story, the idea was to concentrate on her medical history.

Seaman, who has been cited by the Library of Congress for her work on sexism in health care, approached Jackie's medical advisers but felt sufficiently curious about her subject to travel to her hometown, Philadelphia.

"Within hours I was given the names of three of Jackie's father's mistresses," she writes in the preface. "Jackie had hardly grown up in a conventional family."

The book, which took six years to write, gives details of Seaman's life which were to provide much of the (sometimes dubious) colour in her novels and fills out that two-dimensional character beloved of the media of the time.

Irving Mankoff, Susann's husband for 35 years, who



Prize and pathos: Jacqueline Susann (left) and Barbara Seaman



Prize and pathos: Jacqueline Susann (left) and Barbara Seaman

instructed friends not to talk to Seaman, is reported to have said that if his wife were still alive she would take a knife and stab her biographer. Germaine Greer, who wrote the foreword to *Valley of the Dolls*, was also a friend of Seaman's.

"I don't want to be putting the position of defending Jackie's oeuvre," Seaman says now. "In America, all the television hosts wanted me to do was argue her sisters against those of Harold Robbins or Stephen King. The point is that she led a remarkable life."

Seaman, gentle-voiced, faintly academic in

both speech and appearance, could hardly be a greater contrast to that abrasive Susann, of whom Truman Capote wickedly said: "She looks like a truck driver in drag."

Writing the book raised all sorts of ethical difficulties about the role of biography, but Seaman, while quoting Germaine Greer's criticism of "biographers" (Greer suggests that they should "ply a more 'benign' trade"), has no hesitations in defending her position.

There are several types of biography, and those which start from scratch are almost always a contribution to social history — in this case, the discovery of the creation of

the modern fiction best-seller.

Jacqueline Susann, once said: "I think I'll be remembered as the voice of the Sixties... Andy Warhol, the Beatles and me." Seaman believes, however, that she would have been more at home in the Eighties. "That kind of egotism would have been more acceptable. I'm almost afraid to say this, but I think she paved the way for Margaret Thatcher. She was unashamed to be tough and to say what she thought. And Denis Thatcher reminds me of Irving, who also had a successful career and could say 'go for it' to his wife. Having a career was very important to Jackie's heroines, and that was a big departure in women's fiction."

In a recent book, *Remaking Love*, the American feminist Barbara Ehrenreich declared that Susann and Helen Gurley Brown, the editor of *Cosmopolitan*, were as important to the women's movement as Betty Friedan. Seaman certainly proved that a woman could make a fortune from nothing (Aristotle O'Connell, on hearing that Columbia had agreed to pay \$1.5 million for the film rights to *The Love Machine*, remarked: "I think I'm married to the wrong Jackie"). The only beings she spent her whole life trying to worship were her father and God, with whom she was always making "deals".

Seaman, mother of two daughters and a son, says: "I think the book stands as an argument that children should have an opportunity to have a religious education. If it's not provided, they go round shopping for it, as Jackie did."

Signnuala McHugh
Lovers: *The Life of Barbara Seaman* is published by Jonathan Cape, February 22, 1988.



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SOCIAL NEWS

Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, is to give a concert for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the Kings Lynn Festival this summer, to celebrate her 88th birthday.

The Duchess of Kent celebrates her birthday today.

Birthdays today

Sir Roderick Barclay, diplomat, 79; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer and comedian, 60; Miss Patricia Lancaster, headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 59; Lord Martonmore, 81; Sir John Mills, actor, producer and director, 80; Mr Noel Murphy, rugby player, 51; Mr Sean O'Faolain, writer, 61; Tony Ocker, tennis player, 44; Mr William Slack, Surgeon to the Queen, 63; Mr Warren Tate, author, 74; Dame Joan Vary, former Conservative party agent, 68; Mr Kenneth Williams, actor, 62; Mr S.C. Whitbread, chairman, Whitbread and Company, 51.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: George Washington, 1st president of the USA 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, 1788; James Lowell, poet, 1819; Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, general, founder of the Boy Scout movement, 1857; Olive Baden-Powell, leader of the World Guide movement, 1889; Heinrich Hertz, physicist, 1857; Eric Gill, sculptor and designer, 1892; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Rockland, Maine, 1892.

DEATHS: James Barry, painter, London 1806; Sydney Smith, preacher and wit, London 1845; Jean Baptiste Corot, landscape painter, Paris, 1875; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, London, 1875; Hugo Wolf, Lieder composer, Vienna, 1903; Stefan Zweig, writer, Petropolis, Brazil, 1942; Elizabeth Bowen, novelist, London, 1973.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the opening of the "Aldo Rossi exhibition" at the Royal Institution of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, W1, at noon. The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the York Festival, will name an InterCity 125 power car at York Festival 22, Kings Cross Station at 11.05. Princess Michael of Kent will be the guest of honour at a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel at 12.30 and will present the British Association of Industrial Editors Communicator of the Year Award.

Marriages

Mr M. Linfield and Miss E.F. Sargent. The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of Cotehele House, Cornwall, of Mr Mark Linfield, son of the late Dr Robert Linfield and of Mrs Richard Dawe, and stepson of Mr Richard Dawe, of 13 Moreton Terrace, SW1, to Miss Camilla Burbury, daughter of Major and the Hon Mrs T.N.P.W. Burbury, of Ince Barton, Salts, Cornwall. Canon G. Ruming officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Deborah Edinger. Mr Michael Stanning was best man.

A reception was held at the Barn at Cotehele House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Riccardo dei Conti Pavoncelli and Miss E.F. Sargent. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Riccardo dei Conti Pavoncelli, younger son of Count and Countess Giuseppe Pavoncelli, of Naples, to Miss Emma Sargent, younger daughter of Sir Patrick and Lady Sargent, of Highgate Village, London. Father Anthony Nye, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Carlyn Hunter, Emma Sturges and Giuseppe Pavoncelli. Mr Filippo Friedenberg was best man.

A reception was held at the Ritz hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr S.R. Dettler and Miss S.J. Bradshaw. The marriage took place in Blackpool, Lancashire on February 13, 1988, between Mr Scott R. Dettler, elder son of Mr and Mrs S.F. Dettler, of Hong Kong, and Miss Sarah J. Bradshaw, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.E.J. Bradshaw, of Lytham, Lancashire.

Clifford Longley

Now that liberalism has lost

Recent events have seen the forces of theological liberalism in the Church of England brought to battle by conservatives and defeated. These may yet prove to have been crucial victories in the internal struggle for control of the Church of England, halting the long advance of liberalism and ensuring that henceforth the religious climate in that church will be considerably more conservative. If so, the implications will be far reaching, and potentially troublesome.

The first battle was between the liberals and the Evangelicals over homosexuality. The battlefield was the November General Synod, though what was decisive was the way the Evangelicals exploited afterwards what was in fact a stalemate. With the outcome still unclear, the day went to the army which claimed victory first and acted accordingly, thereby convincing its opponents that they had been defeated.

The second was the Crockford's affair, with the liberals this time under attack from the Anglo-Catholic side. The battlefield was more a series of guerrilla engagements than a set-piece confrontation, but it resulted in a second defeat for liberalism as significant as the first.

Before Dr Bennett's shocking death, the Anglo-Catholics and the liberals were bombarding each other with roughly equal effect. Then suddenly the liberal guns fell silent, and the conservatives had it all their own way. When the issues finally came to the synod earlier this month, Dr Bennett's dissenting protest had mysteriously transformed itself into the consensus.

Liberalism, in this context, is less a defined position, more an attitude of scepticism towards defined positions of any kind. A liberal is a habitual sceptic, aloof to the simpler moral or doctrinal certainties which motivate Anglo-Catholics and Evangelicals.

But liberalism has sometimes in the past been adopted as a facade because it was seen to be intellectually respectable,

while behind it sometimes hid a closet conservative. Some of those who were "facade" liberals last year may have been finding more recently that they have acquired stronger convictions.

Liberalism is not, however, in the middle ground, although it has been mistaken for such. Canon George Austin, who represents St Albans diocese in the synod, has produced a neat demolition of this view, which is also an explanation of the church's recent tendency to prefer liberals to Evangelicals or Anglo-Catholics for senior appointments.

Churchmanship is too easily regarded as a simple spectrum with Anglo-Catholics at one end, Evangelicals at the other, and liberals in the centre, he argues. Hence a liberal is assumed to be a more acceptable leader to the greatest number. Canon Austin has proposed as an alternative test geometry, a triangle, with liberal, Evangelical, and Anglo-Catholic at the three corners. A liberal, in this view, is no more a moderate than the others.

These three correspond to the three pillars that Anglicanism likes to complement itself it stands upon — Reason, Scripture and Tradition. A liberal, being a post-Enlightenment figure, will always prefer Reason to the other two if they seem in conflict; an Anglo-Catholic will prefer Tradition; an Evangelical Scripture.

The recent recedes in the Anglican camp, therefore, may be seen as an attempt to displace the ascendancy of Reason as the deciding factor in Anglican philosophy, to make room for Faith. To that extent it is not just a war between parties; it is also a battle for ascendancy in the mind and soul of each individual Anglican.

There are two consequences of the apparent retreat of liberal theology, one good and one bad. Anglicanism was certainly becoming too sceptical, at least in its public image, to attract those looking for commitment. It was also becoming too secular, again in its public

image, and therefore not distinct enough from the background culture of English apostasy. It was hard even to say what exactly it stood for, that differed from the middle opinions of English civilisation in general.

The danger now is of a mood of anti-intellectualism, and a movement towards various kinds of fundamentalism or sectarianism which are so much more likely to confront each other.

The retreat of liberalism could be the eclipse of theology too, already a frail plant in Anglican soil. The outstanding Anglican theological work in the last 30 years has in fact been liberal theology, which has therefore set the church's theological agenda and provided it with its theological tools.

If philosophical and theological shallowness is the weakness of the Anglo-Catholic wing, fundamentalism of the particular doctrine to which Evangelicals are inclined. The challenge of liberal theology was good for them, for it made them make their own theology in reply.

In any event, there was nothing wrong with the questioning liberal theology proposed, for they were the questions every modern faith has to address; the objectives were more by the answers to give to such questions. It was the able and valuable, for the most part, the Bishop of Exeter in his educational and intellectual difficulties surrounding the traditional doctrines of the Virgin Birth and Resurrection. Only an immature faith could make such difficulties, and Evangelicalism has yet to remove the suspicion that it encourages such immaturity.

Ultimately the danger facing Evangelicals and Anglo-Catholics lies in the fact that they have defended their common enemy, theological liberalism, in that they will become reality two churches side by side without a common language, drifting in different directions. The next task, which has been postponed too long, must surely be a real movement of internal Anglican communion.

OBITUARY

DR JOHN ALLEGRO

Maverick student of Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr John Allegro, philologist and violent, anti-Christian propagandist, died on February 17, his sixty-fifth birthday.

Among his many publications there are two with which his name will be most associated: *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (1956) and *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross* (1970). Each, in its own way, astounded and depressed many believers.

The former was an excellently illustrated and attractively written book, giving a good account of the finding of the scrolls in 1947, in a cave near the town of Qumran, and of the Dead Sea Scrolls as a shepherd boy in search of his god.

For archaeological discovery, projected by much controversy among scholars or so to the public imagination. The book was criticized, however, as being the New Testament was named, for suggesting that Jesus was the scrolls and the teachings of the Church were closer than is generally thought. For example, the author noted that "the sect of the scrolls" looked for two Messiahs.

But it was *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross* which brought upon Allegro's head the wrath of his fellow academics and of church people for its peculiar explanation of ancient religion, and of the origins of Christianity.

The author based his hypothesis on the Sumerian root-meaning of words, correctly pointing out the prominence of the word "mushroom" in several ancient religions. The hallucinatory mushroom *Amanita muscaria* was the key.

Thereafter, his imagination appeared to go its own way. Jesus was depicted as "the spirit that saves" while the Ten Commandments, if properly decoded into their Sumerian root meanings, should read: "I am the Lord, thy Egyptian mushroom." Thus was Allegro's "phallic cult" born.



"I doubt whether Mr Allegro's hypothesis of the Sumerian root-meaning of the word 'mushroom' will catch on," intoned one reviewer, "though, no doubt, in fifty years' time there will be someone or other in Earl's Court or Bourne-moat who will still believe [that he] was on the right lines." The book was a best-seller all the same, despite, or more likely, as a result of being dismissed as "erotic fantasy".

John Marco Allegro was born in 1922 in Manchester. He was a member of the first students of the Royal Society for the Study of the History of the Sumerian Language. After his studies at Manchester and at the University of Oxford, he did research in the Sumerian language.

The rest of his academic career was spent at Manchester, where he was a lecturer in comparative Semitic philology and in Hebrew (1954 to 1962) and then as lecturer in Old Testament and intertestamental studies, until 1970. His grasp of Hebrew studies was never in question, what his colleagues did take issue with, however, was his inferences.

In 1953 he was appointed British representative on the international editing team for the Dead Sea Scrolls in Jerusalem, where his gift of

deciphering small texts proved invaluable.

In 1966 he wrote, in collaboration with Roy (Desert Island Discs) Plunkett, a play, *The Living Obelisk*, which was put on at Huddersfield, a largely autobiographical tale.

He left his academic post at Manchester in 1970. In that year, under the storm of criticism that attended his claim to have traced the source of Christianity to an edible fungus, he published *The End of a Road*. To the arguments that Moses, Abraham, and Jesus never existed, and that their names are a variation on the Sumerian word for mushroom, he here appended his belief that the props of religion can be cast aside and a start made on distributing the world's riches.

It is, perhaps, a tragedy that the controversy which surrounded Allegro (albeit of his own making) overshadowed his long devotion to interpreting the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In *Search in the Desert* (1966) he recounts the enthusiasm which he created among a large group of young people to go out to the Judean Desert to explore caves in search of more scrolls. Huge sums of money were raised for the project, while the King of Jordan, from personal interest and financial motives, was placed at the expedition's disposal.

Not a single new fragment was found, but Allegro, a skilled negotiator with a reputation for being the unexpected, commanded much admiration.

He was a man who spoke his mind, if not his heart. Early in life he had gone to a Methodist training college, but left within seven years, he said, "because I was not a Christian." "I was not a Christian," he said, "because I was not a Christian." "I was not a Christian," he said, "because I was not a Christian."

His marriage, in 1948, to Joan Lawrence, by whom he had a son and a daughter, was dissolved in 1968.

MR LAURENCE GORDON

Mr Laurence L. Gordon, DSO, who had a distinguished career in the international energy business and a unique war record, died in Victoria, British Columbia, on February 14. He was 81.

The foundations of an international career were laid early. He was born in British Columbia, in 1906, where his father, a nomadic Scots doctor, was trying to grow apples in the Okanagan. His childhood was spent in London, Paris, and Oporto, as his father oscillated between medical practice and more unconventional ways of earning a living.

The family emigrated to Kenya in the early 1920s. Still a teenager, Gordon struggled with his father to extract a livelihood from some barren land in Kenya. They began a local industry for processing lime which has continued to this day, and meanwhile discovered paleontological fossils, now in the British Museum.

In 1929 he joined Caltex as a local salesman. Moving on promotion via Madagascar to Mauritius, he was stationed in Hanoi when the war broke out.

After the Japanese occupation of that area, he proposed to India Command that he should establish an organization, inside French Indo-

China, to supply military, political and economic assistance about the Japanese, and to make contact with and help organize escape routes for Allied prisoners-of-war in Japanese camps.

At that time, owing to the complete breakdown of the British secret intelligence organization in the Far East, the Allies were totally lacking direct sources of intelligence in the region.

Gordon's proposal was accepted, and he was secretly commissioned and dispatched behind enemy lines. Operating at great personal risk and in conditions of great hardship for 3½ years, he secured the confidence and full co-operation of the Chinese and American intelligence authorities. The group which he formed, called the GBT group, established a highly efficient network of agents.

His achievements were recognized with a DSO, the citation saying that it was difficult to over-estimate the personal contribution he made to the task of defeating the Japanese. "His work," it went on, "has been unique, both in its scope and success." The US Medal of Freedom followed.

Gordon's distinguished his experience in unpublished

memoirs, *Friends for Life*. Many of his closest friends, associates remained and others drifted.

After the war, he returned to Caltex, in Saigon, moving on, with increasing seniority, to Paris and New York. He then moved to Conoco, and during the 1960s, based in London, he played a key role in co-ordinating and implementing the company's expansion into the European energy market by the acquisition of small, independent companies. He ended his career in New York once more, as Conoco's vice-president for international manufacture and marketing.

Returning to London in 1971, Gordon set up a private consultancy, but he had retained Canadian citizenship, and it was to Canada that he made his final move. There, in his last years, he enjoyed what he described as the luxury of a quiet domestic routine with his wife, Ivy (whom he had married in Montreal, in 1930).

He was a generous and stimulating companion when the going was easy; a shrewd adviser and, totally dependable support in times of stress.

His wife and their two sons survive him.

RENE CHAR

Rene Char, French (Provençal) poet, dramatist, and Resistance fighter, died in Paris on February 19. He was 80. His early *Marteau sans maître* (The Hammer without Master) is a piece of music for orchestra and orchestra set by his compatriot, Pierre Boulez.

Char's poetry is widely read outside his native France, and there are three substantial volumes in English translation: *Hypnos Waking* (1956), *Leaves of Hypnos* (1973) and *Poems of René Char* (1976).

He will always be associated with a group of painters who were his close friends ("substantial allies," he called them): Braque, Giacometti, Miró, Picasso and others illustrated beautiful limited editions of his poems.

Everything about Char was "mountainous" — writing, stature, character, whether in generosity or anger. His is the most difficult poetry of undeniable quality since Mallarmé's, but only because he tried to make his language and rhythm match the humane experience behind it — not because he wished to express profound ideas, on the whole, it has not appealed to intellectuals.

René Char was born on June 14, 1907, at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Vaucluse. His father, Emile, was the town's mayor. The young Char put great emphasis on his early years, when he made friends with all the local people, "rebels of all sorts". He went to the lycée in Avignon, gained his baccalauréat, and then visited Tunisia, in 1924, "acquiring strong anti-colonial feelings".

He was wounded by German soldiers in 1923 (Paris very dangerous), and did his military service at Nîmes (1927-8).

In 1929 he published *Arrière* (his second book), a copy of which he sent to the surrealist poet Paul Eluard, who took him "off to Paris" where he introduced him to the leader of the surrealists, André Breton.

Char's early poems were surrealist in style, but he soon cast off all but the appearance of surrealism in the interests of recapturing what he felt to be the essentials of life, especially, at that time, the struggle against fascism.

He maintained "that his work of this period should be related to the 'social struggle' — the most important theme of these years. 'Le visage spirituel' (The Spiritual Face) is a long and resonant love poem.

In 1935 Char became manager of the Vaucluse chapter, but resigned because people found it hard to work with him. In the following year, he almost died from blood-poisoning, and spent a year convalescing at Camargue.

In 1939 he was called up, fought in Alsace, and on the defeat, was demobilized. The Vichy police investigated him, since anyone with surrealist connections was suspect as a communist. He escaped to the Alps, and became "Captain Alexandre", departmental commander of the parachute landing division of the second region of the Free French Forces.

He was wounded by German soldiers in 1944, and was cared for by nurses in the following month he was able to go to Algeria, where he had been summoned by the North Africa Allied Council. He was parachuted back into France and participated in most of the battles which liberated Provence. He was demobilized in 1945.

With the publication of *Seuls demeurent* (The Only Ones Left, 1945) and *Faillir d'Hypnos* (Leaves of Hypnos, 1946), he became famous. Accusations that he became increasingly grandiose were not entirely unfounded, but he refused to become embroiled in political squabbles.

His poetry and prose, collected in such volumes as *Commune présente* (Common Presence) and *Le mal talismanique* (The Talismanic Evil) are highly regarded.

Char numbered among his friends Camus, Pasternak (by correspondence), and Martin Heidegger, in whose philosophy he remained intensely interested and whose Nazi past he characteristically ignored as irrelevant. He held the Croix de Guerre, the Medal of the Resistance, and was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

His marriage, in 1933, to Geneviève Goldstein, ended in divorce in 1949.

Rear-Admiral Jack Kenneth Highton, CB, CBE, who died on February 17, aged 83, was Chief Staff Officer (Administration) to Commander-in-Chief Plymouth (1957-1960).

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Mr Raymond Francis was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Rev David Elliott officiated and Mr Alex McCowan read the lesson. Mr Richard Pasco gave a tribute and read from the works of Edward Thomas and Mr Michael McStay read an extract from *Cymbeline*. Mr Clive Francis, son, and Mr Johnny Briggs gave addresses.

Francis Holland School

The biennial old girls' party at Francis Holland School, SW1, will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 1988, from 6-8 pm.

Richmond Tutorial College

Mr Carey Palmer, principal of Richmond Tutorial College has awarded David Duboué the Edward Gibbon Scholarship in History.

Jane Glover takes over Huddersfield

For the first time in its 152 year history, the Huddersfield Choral Society has appointed a woman as its principal conductor.

Dr Jane Glover, widely known through her BBC TV appearances as presenter of the Proms, and who comes from Yorkshire, takes over from Owain Arwel Hughes who resigned 18 months ago following a disagreement over musical policy. She is already musical director of the London Choral Society and artistic director of the London Mozart Players.



The Duke and Duchess of York leave on Saturday for a nine-day visit to Los Angeles to celebrate the best of British arts. In this photograph the Duchess is wearing an embroidered black satin off-the-shoulder long evening dress with velvet and black satin puffed sleeves, the Duke a deep red velvet smoking jacket.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.P. Blakiston Houston and Miss L.M.L. Hubbard. The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Houston and Mrs J.M. Blakiston, of Belvoir Castle, Co Tyrone, and Lucinda, second daughter of Lieutenant-Commander T.B.P. and Lady Miriam Hubbard, of Thurston Croft near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Mr B.R.W. Robinson and Miss J. Connolly. The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Mr and the Hon Mrs N.W. Robinson, of Chelsea, Old Church Street, and Jayne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Connolly, of Adelaide, Australia.

Mr G.E. Bell and Miss A.E. Leather. The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Bell, of Boston, Lincolnshire, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Leather, of Perth, Scotland.

Mr A.J.R. Bower and Miss B.J. Fuller. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Bower, of Barnford, Rochdale, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Fuller, of Baslow, Derbyshire.

Mr S.A. Braun and Miss A. McParland. The engagement is announced between Simon Andrews, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E.U. Braun, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Angela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P. McParland, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Major N.J. Lunt and Miss F.H. Hedley. The engagement is announced between Nicholas Lunt, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, only son of Mr Andrew Lunt, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs David Cornish, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and Felicity Henrietta, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Hedley, of Wareham, Dorset.

Mr A.P.T. Barles and Miss C.L. Furby. The engagement is announced between Alan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.S. Barles, of Lingfield, Surrey, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.M. Furby, of East Hove, Surrey.

Mr E.C. Cameron and Miss K.A. Gutteridge. The engagement is announced between Kenneth, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Charles Cameron, of Marazion, Cornwall, and Kerry, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Gutteridge, of Yarrington, Victoria, Australia.

Mr H.J. Kuiper and Miss R.J.F. Barnett. The engagement is announced between Harvey, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Kuiper, of Coombe Farm, Wiltshire, and Kathryn, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Pooley, of Bristol.

Mr J.O.C. Macdonald and Miss P.J. Allegro. The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.T. Macdonald, of Ditcher, Somerset, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Allegro, of North Bersted, West Sussex.

Mr P.T. McIntyre and Miss M. May. The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs M. McIntyre, of Cobblers, Shaftesbury, Dorset, and Michelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence May, of Meltham, New Zealand.

Mr S.A. Shaw and Miss C. Peasey. The engagement is announced between Simon Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs R.H. Shaw, of Chichester, Sussex, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Masini, of Cowden, Kent.

Mr S.E. Groat and Miss A.M. Baker. The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Noel A. Groat, of Hayes, Kent, and Ann-Marie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Baker, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr A.M.W. Wigginton and Miss S.C. Merrifield. The engagement is announced between Adam, son of the late Major H.E.W. Wigginton, MBE, and Mrs P.L. Wigginton, of Monnow Green, Manchester, and Susanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs S.P. Merrifield, of Cobham, Surrey.

PICK OF THE WEEK AT CHRISTIE'S

24-hour dial carriage clock by Margaine, Paris

This extremely rare clock was made for the Japanese market by the leading Parisian carriage clock maker, Margaine, in the late 19th century. Striking the hours and half-hours on a bell, the clock shows Japanese and Roman numerals on both the 24-hour chapter and alarm rings.

This will be one of the items in the sale of Watches, Clocks and Barometers to be held at Christie's South Kensington on Friday, 26 February at 10.30am.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week please telephone either South Kensington (01-581 7611) or King Street (01-839 9060).



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TELEVISION

Ham and egos

Actors love to play actors. The stage has refined the chance to mock his profession by comically trumpeting its high calling. In *Did You See Justice?* (BBC2), which discussed television's investigations of miscarriages of justice, an old "ham" unintentionally mocked his profession by seriously trumpeting its high calling. Lord Denning may have been one of the century's most eminent judges, but recently he has become familiar to the great British viewing public as a television "performer", who plays to the cameras with a benign theatricality worthy of a rugged Hollywood starlet of old, disinterested for a chat show.

This is most endearing when he is defending a footpath under threat, but last night he was claiming that it was more important that public confidence in the system of justice should not be threatened by media criticism, than that innocent people should be released from prison. The repugnant morality of such a position apart, it was sad to see so fine a mind defile itself.

Broadcasting such a view with almost smirking relish only achieves exactly what Denning wishes to avoid — the undermining of the confidence of the public, who would like to think that, in our judicial system, the innocent are not punished and that truth is more important than saving face.

Lord Haleham proved a much more impressive voice of the legal establishment. But the most engaging performance from an old showman was by the poet George Barker, in the ambitious and affectionate film portrait by the novelist and former occupant of this space, Carlo Gebler, for the *South Bank Show* (ITV).

Re-enactment is always problematic in documentaries (particularly about miscarriages of justice). Gebler ingeniously, at times brilliantly, combined cardboard cut-outs, black and white photography and an obsessively moving camera.

Andrew Hislop

Nostalgie de la Boo

Evergreen English actress Evelyn Laye tells Sheridan Morley why the revival in London this week of Noël Coward's *Bitter Sweet* evokes powerful memories

When Noël Coward's opera *Bitter Sweet* opens at Sadler's Wells on Wednesday, for its first professional London revival in 60 years, at least one member of the audience will be viewing it with a certain nostalgia. At the age of 88, Evelyn Laye is the last great star survivor of the British musical at its pre-war romantic height, and it was indeed to her that Coward first turned when casting the role of Sari, one she abruptly rejected for the West End.

"Looking back now," she says, "that was the greatest professional mistake of my life, though at the time it was a very easy one to make. The show was being produced by Charles Cochran, who was also presenting a revue starring Jessie Matthews and my then husband Sonnie Hale. They had begun to live together, and so, furious with Cochran for bringing them into contact with each other and also battered by Sonnie's abrupt departure, I refused to have anything to do with another Cochran production."

"I can see Noël to this day, sitting at the piano and playing the score and then looking at me as if I was raving mad to turn it down, which of course I was. A few weeks after they opened in London to enormous success, the Stock Market crashed and I lost all my money, so at that point I had no savings and no job either."

Happily, the story did not end there. "To cheer myself up I bought a ticket to a matinee of *Bitter Sweet*, and realized at once what a blithering idiot I'd been; so I rang Noël and asked if there was the faintest chance that I could play it in New York, where they'd never heard of me, though ironically they did, of course, know Peggy Wood, the American actress who was playing it in London instead of me."

"Anyway, Noël agreed, and so I learned that amazing score and a killer of a part: you have to go from

70 back to 18, and then up to 30 and 50, within three acts. It was my American debut, and all they put up in lights was the title of the show, until after the first night. They saw the notices and put my name up there too, much to the fury of Flo Ziegfeld, whose theatre and production it was. "The only person ever to go up in lights outside my theatre until now," he said, "was me."

"But he seemed to forgive me and I had a wonderful time, except on the pre-Broadway tryout in Boston, where Noël sacked the leading man, who then solemnly threatened to kill both of us and so we got quite nervous."

Miss Laye played *Bitter Sweet* on Broadway for a year, and then returned to replace Peggy Wood in the original London cast. "That was when I made my other great mistake about *Bitter Sweet*."

"While I was on Broadway, Sam Goldwyn asked me to film it and idiotically I said I'd rather make another musical film first. So we did *One Heavenly Night*, which really wasn't very good and I never got to make *Bitter Sweet*, though both Anna Neagle and Jeanette MacDonald did."

It was early in the summer of 1928 that Coward, then coming to the end of his twenties and already established as the playboy of the West End, decided that, after the modernity of *The Vortex* and *Fallen Angels*, London was now ready for a return to the Vienna Woods.

His first and most successful operetta was in fact inspired by the casual hearing of a *Fladermaus* recording, and its most famous song ("I'll See You Again") occurred to him soon afterwards, while sitting in a Broadway traffic jam. The plot is a lavish tribute to the world of Lehar and Strauss, and the score represents Coward at his closest to Novello, with lightning, unashamedly romantic numbers like "Zigeuner" and "If Love Were All".

In the gloom that followed the General Strike, *Bitter Sweet* came as a total surrender to the charm and emotion which had filled the musical theatre of Coward's stage-struck childhood. His first major work as a composer was also the first for which he could be held totally responsible as writer, composer, lyricist and director, working on a then unprecedented budget of £20,000, with choreography by Tilly Losch and a cast featuring George Metaxa, Ivy St Helier and, more surprisingly, the young Robert Newton.

The composer himself never lived to see a major revival of *Bitter Sweet*, and never much cared for the MGM version, which he memorably described as "a nauseating hotchpotch of vulgarity, false values, seedy dialogue, stale sentiment, vile performances and abominable direction". But he retained great



Who's Sari now? Evelyn Laye in costume as the Coward heroine as she appeared on Broadway and in London

affection for the show itself, and for Miss Laye it remains the highlight of a long career.

"It's the one Coward score where you feel the music really came from his heart rather than his head, from his memories rather than his intelligence," she says. "It's a celebration of old Vienna, and it's a romantic tragedy, and with *Phantom of the Opera* we seem to have gone back to that rather old-fashioned sort of thing."

"As long as they stay away from the microphones and don't do it too loudly, it'll go very well. Noël always said the great thing was to enjoy it and not to be so bloody English and reserved about the romanticism."

"This was the musical that got me back on my feet after my marriage,

after the crash, after everything. It saved my life, professionally and perhaps privately as well: of course I love it."

The rest of us have another reason to be grateful to *Bitter Sweet*: when Noël first began to write it, he offered it to his old childhood friend and co-star Gertrude Lawrence. As the score developed, however, he realized her light voice would never be able to manage it, and promised her he'd write her a new play instead. The play was called *Private Lives*.

● *Bitter Sweet*, in a production by the New Sadler's Wells Opera and the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, opens on Wednesday at Sadler's Wells after an preview. Valerie Masterson and Ann Mackay are alternating in the role of Sari.

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CONCERT

Fighting talk wins

BBC SO/
Loughran
Barbican/Radio 3

The idea of the concerto as a dramatic dialogue, or even conflict, between soloist and orchestra, stretches back at least as far as Beethoven. Modern scholars tell us he conceived the slow movement of the Fourth Piano Concerto as a representation of Orpheus taming the furies. More recently, composers such as Birtwistle or Schnittke have added a visual dimension, by using peripatetic instrumentalists in a kind of mime.

Thea Musgrave has choreographed her fair share of roving performers in her time, but in her superb 1973 Viola Concerto she chooses not to invite us to wonder why they wander. The soloist stays put. Yet the sense of theatre in his dialogues with different orchestral sections is brilliantly apt.

Often they are carried on at two levels simultaneously. The soloist might break off from his furious presto debate with the cello and double bass principals, in order to make a plaintive response to a mournful cor anglais line.

Most attention, however, is focused on the soloist's relationship with the orchestral violas, who imitate and attempt to usurp his role — to the extent of rising to their feet at the concerto's climax — before (perhaps) winning parity by playing in unison with him.

This was an excellent performance by Paul Silverthorne and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under James Loughran's direction. The only pity was that the audience was so small.

Richard Morrison

OPERA

Dido/Pyramus
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Last summer I wrote from the idyllic Burgundian chateau at Ancy le Franc of productions of English masque and opera given there by the small touring company Opera Restor'd. On Saturday, two of those productions arrived belatedly in London, for the South Bank's "Music in Time" series. The translation from an old, eminently apposite, setting to a stark modern auditorium did no favours for the company's style, which is small-scaled, authentic and, most importantly, full of imaginative stagecraft; but the flavour of the period was maintained splendidly.

That was as true in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, performed with its lost dances replaced by appropriate numbers from the composer's other works and with Michael Tilmouth's conjectural act two prologue and chorus, as it was in John Lampe's intentionally musically lightweight "mock opera" *Pyramus and Thisbe*, which adapts Shakespeare's play within a play, in order to poke fun at the state of English opera.

Dido was a considerable achievement, performed in front of a single flat but in opulent William and Mary style clothes. Jack Edwards, the director, created a stylized production but still managed to breathe emotion, with some expressive movements and poses. Though Sally Bradshaw's Dido at times lacked breath (and in the lament even sagged in pitch) she was able to summon intensity where it was needed; while Christine Botes's sorceress, Susan Bisatt's Belshazzar and Andrew Knight's rather distinguished Aeneas emphasized the company's major asset of secure productive team work.

Stephen Pettitt

Food for thought has spice and style

RADIO

How easily The Food Programme (Radio 4, Fridays, repeating Mondays) could have degenerated into something thoroughly anodyne. But under Derek Cooper and its various producers (currently Vanessa Harrison) what a marvellously eclectic, informative and quietly combative programme it remains. "We are what we eat", goes the saying, and Mr Cooper has consistently seen to it that in this respect, at least, if his listeners do not attain self-knowledge, we will have no-body to blame but ourselves.

For instance, he has focused a steady, low-key, but resolute attention on the more dubious practices of agriculture and the food industry. It was instructive the other week to hear him overseeing a discussion between a pig farmer and a lady representing an organization called Compassion in World Farming. Each side of this confrontation seemed bent on making the other's case on his/her behalf.

There was something in the farmer's tone to make you look with new sympathy at the next pork chop you saw (and probably buy lamb instead). But Derek Cooper, without actually saying much, contrived to undermine the farmer's assertion that intensive rearing is all the customer's fault for insisting on low prices, while also conveying what the other party's slightly hectoring style was managing to obscure: that our treatment of the animals we eat ought to make us very uncomfortable indeed.

But then we can be pretty hard to dent, even when faced with the clear evidence of moral turpitude. Appeals to self-interest do much better, so it may be lucky for pigs and others that, as we learned last week, stress in animals actually makes for poor quality flesh. I've also heard that it stimulates the production of substances distinctly unfriendly to the human organism and perhaps Cooper might have taken this up.

But he probably already has, or if he hasn't, he will. And when he does, the point will not be hammered to death, but will take its turn along with fascinating topics such as food and class, or food as seen by artists — to quote two of the programme's recent, excellent excursions.

The return of King Street Junior (Radio 4, Mondays, repeating Tuesdays) is a matter for exceptional congratulation — not only for its entertainment value (already given full credit by my colleague Nigel Andrew in last Monday's "Choice") but for being there at all. It was planned in full confidence of the continuing participation of Peter Davidson as new-come Brown. With scripts all written and not so long before production, it became clear that Davidson was not going to be available.

So the appearance of Karl Howman as Philip Sims, which has all the marks of a carefully considered winning gambit, is in fact the outcome of pure desperation on the part of writer Jim Eldridge and his producer, John Fawcett Wilson. It is also a tribute to their resourcefulness and professionalism.

Since it does not care to be seen indulging in serialization, Radio 3 has announced *Whose is the Kingdom?* (Fridays) as "nine plays about Church and State under the Roman Empire". John Arden's and Margaretta D'Arcy's intention, in the words of their narrator and female philosopher, Kybele (Elizabeth Spriggs), is to follow "the whole process of history from the reign of Constantine, beginning with the latter's overthrow of the Emperor Maximian. I quailed, but the first hour carried its burden of history lightly and inventively."

David Wade

Riotous Polish nonsense rightly revived

THEATRE

Princess Ivona
Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury

Polish-born Witold Gombrowicz never attracted much of a following in this country.

One reason must be that his nonsense, if that is what it is, does not end with a return to cosy normal life, as in the British tradition where, once you wake up, you realize you were never down a rabbit hole after all.

According to Gombrowicz, who died about twenty years ago, down the hole or behind the looking glass is where we are all the time, trapped within tight confines of character and custom that oblige us to bow, scrape and be generally human at something else's beck; Nature's, presumably.

His stream of nonsense — channelled, as so often with nonsense writers, down a strictly logical course — runs through this 1934 play, now being taken round the country by Mark Brickman's Actors Touring Company. It has been professionally produced only

once before over here, in German, during one of the World Theatre seasons.

Young Prince Philip of Burgundia (Kevin O'Donoghue), idle and bored, catches sight of an ugly, sluggish, tongue-tied frump, down in the city, and decides to make her his princess. The more his aghast counsellors protest, the more he insists.

Played by Emma Dewhurst as the very image of ungainly sorrow, Ivona's effect on the court is over-whelming. Laughed at, she will not retaliate; rejected, she meekly suffers. And when she does speak, it is with a natural sincerity, the reverse of the attitudes struck by King and courtiers. Something about her causes them all to find out aspects of themselves they would rather forget.

The blustering King (Terence Beesley) recalls a seamstress from long ago who expired miserably; the Queen fears the King has been reading the soppy poetry she keeps under her mattress.

This conjunction between the serious and the farcical is richly exploited in the scene when King, Queen, Chamberlain (a dapper Stephen Carrow) and Prince in turn, enter



Terence Beesley (King) and Emma Dewhurst as Ivona at the Gulbenkian Theatre.

Ivona's anteroom bent on murdering her.

Sharon Bower's Queen delivers an absurdly funny monologue, gearing herself up to the act — "Forward, murderous bottle!" — by disheveling her hair and twisting her mouth.

Then, smack into the mid-

die of this black comedy, comes the grey figure of her victim, hunched, shuffling and human.

Brickman uses a bare set backed by a row of booths to which the characters retire when not taking part in the main action downstairs. But in their prison-like cells they are

still within the play, though immobile as puppets.

Brickman has found for his fine cast the perfect style for the text, aptly nodding in the direction of the Polish director, Kantor: angular, starkly made up, and grimly funny.

It's worth catching.

Jeremy Kingston

Setting a poor example

ROCK

Bill Wyman's
All-Stars/
Chris Rea/etc
Albert Hall

As well as ushering in the age of the charity rock concert, one unremarked contribution of Live Aid was its reinstatement of the quick onstage changeover. The first five acts at this Period AIMS gala appeal marathon appeared within 90 minutes.

They were the performers that have emerged from a nationwide sweep conducted by Bill Wyman, who set up the AIMS (Ambition, Ideas, Motivation, Success) project last year with the intention of locating and assisting the development of new musical talent otherwise starved of opportunity in an ever more competitive industry.

Despite the laudable in-

tentions of the exercise, and the undoubtedly impressive technical expertise of these young hopefuls, it has to be said that their music was uniformly superficial and unoriginal. There was no shortage of *Ambition* or *Motivation*, and Success may well be on the horizon for this Perfect Gift's light soul-influenced confectionery and for Mola Mola, a Dutchman from Norwich who would be an ideal client for the production values of Stock Aitken Waterman. But Ideas were simply not on the agenda.

With the *raison d'être* of the event out of the way, the audience settled down to enjoy the now familiar pattern of a standard rock variety show. Chris Rea ambled on and played a gorgeous, resonant set, that included "Nothing's Happening By The Sea" and "Steel River", music that has always been more about satisfying an emotional need in the performer than it is a means of satisfying a lust for success.

Christie Hymde and Elvis

Costello strummed acoustic guitars and harmonized in what turned out to be a brittle combination of voices on the Beatles' "There's a Place" and the Kinks' "Tired". Bad News played "Bohemian Rhapsody" in its entirety with some conviction, and finally Wyman's All-Stars appeared. Along with the usual old lags — Ron Wood, Phil Collins, Alan Clark, Kenny Jones, Ray Cooper, Ian Dury — there were one or two slightly less familiar faces, including Eddy Grant, who sang "Baby Come Back", and Terence Trent D'Arby, who got to sing a verse of "Honey Toak Women" when Wood wasn't looking.

Surely, though, the most daunting prospect for new talent setting out in the rock business today must be the knowledge that scrappy, half-rehearsed versions of "Lucille", "Johnny B. Goode" and "It's All Over Now" continue to provoke a Pavlovian response of such unalloyed enthusiasm.

David Sinclair

Perfect partners

JAZZ

Kenny Wheeler
Quintet
Colchester Arts
Centre

After just a handful of performances, Kenny Wheeler's all-star group — formed specially for this tour — already looks and sounds like a fully-fledged working band.

The empathy which exists between the players really should come as no surprise. Wheeler is, after all, a long-standing member of the quintet led by the bassist Dave Holland; he also accompanies John Taylor's piano sketches in the trio Azimuth. For his part, the guitarist John Abercrombie contributed to Wheeler's decade-old album *Deer Wan*, whose poignant title composition was some of the warmest applause

In its approach, the quintet

lies in the fertile middle ground between the self-absorbed mood of Azimuth and the more extrovert soloing of the current Holland band. Moving between trumpet and flugelhorn, Wheeler unfolds his themes delicately, over spare piano chords and perhaps a discreet splash of cymbals from the drummer, Peter Erskine. The tempo, as in pieces such as Wheeler's "Everybody's Song But My Own", remains unhurried.

Taylor, in particular, was a revelation. Forsaking the dense textures of his recent work with his quartet Foil, he adopted a more robust style which pushed and probed against bass and drums.

At times some of the fine detail of Wheeler's lines was lost against the high ceiling of the venue, a de-consecrated church. Abercrombie, who contributed some economical, noted solos, faced fewer problems. The only question now is how long we will have to wait before these musicians are reunited in the recording studio.

Clive Davis

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The challenge from the skies



The next decade will see a revolution in satellite and cable services, making today's broadcasting services obsolescent.

Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, pinpoints key trends

The growth in television services during the 1980s (breakfast television, Channel 4 and the spread of video recorders), will be dwarfed by developments into the middle of the next decade.

The next few years hold out the prospect of satellite services successfully being launched, and of cable emerging from its quiet start.

The Government is also looking at the possibility of introducing one or more additional terrestrial channels, on UHF or VHF, and funded either through advertising or subscription, and at the potential of microwave video distribution (MVDS).

When decisions are taken on these issues, we shall clearly have in mind their potential impact on other planned services.

We are, thus, entering a period of unparalleled change, which risks rendering our present framework for broadcasting obsolescent. The challenge will be to maintain the high standards of British broadcasting and boost programme exports, while increasing competition through new services.

We have no intention of falling prey to technological determinism; whereby just because something is technically possible, it is untested, irrespective of its wider effects.

Nor do we intend to go to the opposite extreme and seek to force broadcasting to conform to a blue-print based on Whitehall predictions of where tastes and technology

may go. Our broadcasting legislation will aim to facilitate change rather than to prescribe precisely what form it takes.

There are two main justifications for our present, relatively highly regulated, system. First, spectrum scarcity has in the past severely constrained the number of services available, making it important for this spectrum to be used to provide a diverse service in the interests of the public as a whole. Second, because television is a uniquely powerful and intrusive medium.

The Government has no intention of lifting public service obligations from present operators for the foreseeable future. But our broadcasting framework can now become looser and more competitive, as the advent of cable and satellite services reduces the scarcity of supply and thus weakens the first argument for the status quo.

The new services are an important determining element in paving the way for change.

The coming of trans-frontier services has important implications for the regulation of programme content and offers new opportunities for British programme makers.

The Government is aiming to ensure both that the European market for programmes is free from barriers, and that acceptable common standards are established, especially in relation to public taste and the portrayal of violence and sex.

To this end we are actively seeking to promote a Council of Europe convention to pre-



Paul Bryant

'A new confidence abroad, with signs of fresh investment'

scribe standards on programme content and advertising.

These standards would be enforced through a procedure enabling receiving states to take action against broadcasters in other countries who transmit offending services.

We have, hitherto, favoured action through the council, rather than through a European Community directive, because of its wider membership (21 countries) and because of its social and cultural interests. The likely shape of a directive or convention will become clearer in the spring.

Given differing national tastes and mores, the difficulties of reaching agreement are considerable. We will not act as midwife to an inflexible instrument which imposes unnecessary restrictions on advertising breaks, unrealistic quotas on the sourcing of programme production, or which impedes the growth of sponsorship.

But ensuring a free flow of programmes across frontiers with mutual confidence about the quality of material to be broadcast is an important prize.

Bringing a DBS service to the launching pad has not been without moments of despair. It is a high risk business, but with the potential to provide a comprehensive national service — something any new terrestrial service seems unlikely to be able to achieve.

I welcome the fact that BSB's satellite now seems on course for launch next year, and there is now a significant British involvement in SES's medium power Astra satellite,

aiming at the whole European market.

Cable has suffered dramatic changes of mood. Five years ago we seemed on the verge of a drive to "wire up" the nation. But, faced with high capital costs, unrealistic expectations and competition from the growth of video recorders, it began to seem like the revolution that would never happen.

Suddenly, there is a new confidence abroad with signs of new investment, an increase in subscribers for some operators and the advent of new franchises. The Government is, meanwhile, looking at the arguments advanced by the cable operators for allow-

ing MVDS services as a form of "pull through".

There are some problems with such an approach: first, because it involves the subsidisation of one form of technology by another, and second, given the cheapness of MVDS, it is realistic to expect cable operators to abandon it after a specified period and press on with further cabling on its own.

I am well aware of the need to proceed with care in preserving the considerable achievements of British broadcasting. On the other hand, the changes we must now contemplate also provide the means by which to increase consumer choice; to reduce inflated broadcasting costs; and to ensure that we take full advantage of foreign markets.

The success of British satellite and cable services is crucial to this process. In 1988, the prospects for both look considerably brighter than at any time in the last few years.

But how many will be viewing?

What do the figures 150,000, five million and 6.8 million have in common? They are all forecasts of the number of households in the UK which will be receiving "direct-to-home" satellite television services by the mid-1990s.

The first comes from an independent organization, CIT Research, and is an estimate of the number of subscribers which BSB, the British direct broadcast by satellite franchise-holder, can expect after five years of operation.

The second is BSB's own prediction of the number of households which will be receiving its three-channel service by 1997, and the third was prepared for the Luxembourg satellite venture Astra, and relates to 1996.

In theory, the figures should be broadly comparable. The number of viewers who will subscribe to Astra's 16 "pan-European" channels — but not to BSB's three-channel service, tailor-made for the UK audience — is likely to be small.

And yet the Astra estimate is nearly 40 per cent higher than BSB's, and neither is remotely comparable with CIT's.

Market forecasting in any sphere is not an exact science, but the extent of the discrepancies between different estimates of how much business which satellite broadcasts will be doing in the 1990s is beginning to alarm some commentators.

Among them are Dr Michael Tracey, head of the Broadcasting Research Unit in London, and his colleague Steven Barnett. To them, such wide variations in predicting the likely penetration of satellite channels are symptomatic of a wider failure to grasp what current research into television viewing has to say about the prospects for new channels.

"It is extraordinary, given

the amounts of money spent on so-called market research, that the level of understanding of the audience remains so limited and at times utterly confused," Tracey told an audience at a recent Columbia University Business School conference on television.

Tracey argued that all the evidence of viewing behaviour in Europe, in fact, suggested that viewers prefer ingeniously-produced programmes of high quality to cheap American-made imports (which still constitute the bulk of the output on most satellite TV channels). "The new distribution technologies are in for a very rough ride," he suggested.

Barnett takes the argument further. The first Petar (Pan European Television Audience Research) study, carried out last spring, showed that satellite channels had a 35 per cent share of viewing in Germany, 28 per cent in the UK, and 27 per cent in Scandinavia, in households able to receive them.

But, says Barnett, such research is conducted among cable subscribers, who have already demonstrated a greater tendency than the average viewer to want more television choice. It fails to take account of the many potential viewers who decide not to subscribe to cable when given the chance.

Eighty-four per cent of households in the UK which come within reach of cable choose not to subscribe. Satellite channels' share of their total potential audience is not, therefore, 29 per cent but rather less than 5 per cent.

"Tenuous extrapolations" of current news media penetration figures, combined with what viewers tell market researchers they might do if given the chance to subscribe to cable is not, Barnett concludes, a sound basis for planning a business.

Nick Higham

Anything decent on TV tonight?

That's the standard question. And the answer is not always inspiring.

Peak time viewing often seems to consist of chat shows, soaps, sit coms and repeats.

No wonder more and more of us are resorting to the cocoa and Daphne DuMaurier.

Not so the movie-goer.

These creatures enjoy a plethora of fine performances. They are dazzled by lavish sets; mesmerised by special effects.

And the reason for this state of affairs?

The old bogey of economics.

The bucks stop here.

Movie making is an expensive affair; you can easily put \$20 million or more into a production budget.

The box office has to get that money back or the producer suddenly finds his slot missing in the studio car park.

Only cinema can generate these kind of earnings, getting millions to pay cash up-front in order to view.

Fine, you might say, great entertainment is expensive, but do I really want Predator and Poltergeist III emblazoned all over my television screen?

Probably not, but the movie-going public is by and large 18 to 25 and sensationalist. If they want wall-to-wall entrails that's what they'll get, especially when Hollywood knows there are 20 or 30 million of them.

On the other hand, TV audiences are generally more mature and wealthier.

Most importantly, TV audiences are potentially far larger — there are 120 million television-watching households in Europe alone.

At the end of the day, quality of enter-

tainment is dependent upon size of audience.

That's irrefutable fact Number One.

(Look at Jewel in the Crown. 8.1 million ABC1 British viewers turned on to this top drama. TV, when it's done well, does well.)

Fact Number Two is, TV is running out of money. Licence fees are reaching the limit, advertisers are paying as much as they can afford.

The sad fact of the matter is that national TV audiences are often too small to make it economically viable to produce a Brideshead or a Life On Earth every night of the week.

Until now.

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D2-MAC is a new television transmission system designed primarily to operate with a new generation of consumer TV satellites.

You have to remember that existing satellites in Europe broadcast to tiny audiences — often via cable or to hotels or directly over-the-air to hi-tech enthusiasts. The satellites themselves were built specifically for communications and not entertainment.

But new satellites transmit signals up to six times stronger — giving a far better picture and digital hi-fi sound. Between them, these two satellites will bring us more than 30 new channels — with yet more on the way. And, perhaps the most significant aspect of all, each of those channels can carry up to 8 different sound tracks.

Meaning? Ultimately, one single programme can be beamed to 120 million European households, from one central source, in eight different languages at the same time.

(Das Boot, going out on the same night in French, Dutch, Italian, German, English, Danish, Spanish and Greek.)

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION VIEWERS TOTALLY JUSTIFY GENEROUS PRODUCTION BUDGETS

Especially if there are reliable ways to ensure viewers pay directly for what they watch (known in the trade as Pay-Per-View — or PPV if you want to be first with the new jargon).

Stand by for Conditional Access.

Step forward D2-MAC once again.

Part and parcel of the new transmission system are scrambling and Conditional Access facilities, making subscription TV and PPV a practical reality.

So you only see a programme if the broadcaster's computer senses your subscription is up to date.

Subscription TV and PPV is the way the industry is going.

It means the programme maker is assured of getting his revenue, which in turn assures you of great programming.

At the same time, the D2-MAC system ensures compliance with national rules, regulations and moral codes.

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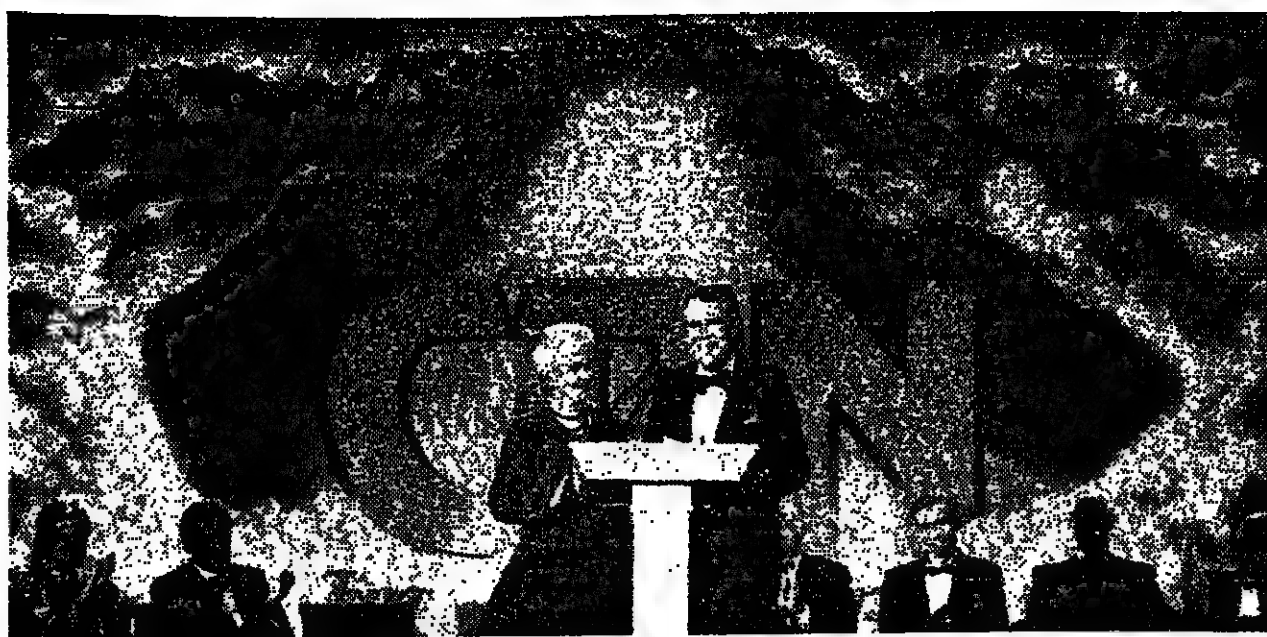
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CABLE AND
SATELLITE/2

FOCUS



American-style religious broadcasting for the 1980s: Pat Robertson and wife testify to the power of evangelism

Here come the evangelists

The prospect that the American "electronic church" might flood the screens of Europe once the DBS satellites are operating has receded. Last year's scandals in Jim Bakker's Praise The Lord television organization revealed the clay feet of the whole enterprise that by 1983 could altogether claim an annual turnover \$6 billion (about £3.3 billion) and had squeezed out mainline religious broadcasting from the US networks.

Yet Europe's comfort in its Atlantic most could still prove premature, as a recent BBC TV *Everyman* programme demonstrated. Sensitive to cold-shouldering by public service networks, until recently evangelistic entrepreneurs could buy time only on commercial radio stations, such as Luxembourg.

New they have established new bridgeheads. In the Netherlands, with its multiplicity of private broadcasting associations under the umbrella of the public corporation, now known as NOB, the Evangelical network, EO, has attracted enough supporters to warrant it a substantial spread of time on radio and TV.

In the Netherlands, too, is the Dirksen Foundation, the creation of a Roman Catholic of conservative leanings. He originally leased a facility on a low-powered satellite with a view to creating a 24-hour religious channel on the American model.

When he realized that such an operation would not pay, he sub-let his property to Europa TV, the short-lived attempt by five national broadcasting organizations to provide an international public-service satellite-TV service.

Among the 20 or so "private" satellite services now beaming into western Europe, New World, from its base in Oslo, has been providing a Sunday-morning diet of religious material. Some of it is

American, such as the Jimmy Swaggart programme.

Other material has been made in Europe, and for an "experimental" 38 weeks, included 38 programmes with such entertainers as Cliff Richard, that were made in Bradford by Dales Television.

That evangelistic enterprise is one of a number in England. Robin Rees, of Christian Communications in Swindon, said: "We are a Trojan horse in reverse," in that his organization is making religious programmes in England for transmission in the US. He described the deal

The Rev. Pat Robertson, billed to appear, failed to materialize

by which his firm is providing a monthly documentary to Capital TV in Washington for US-wide transmission via the Western Satellite.

Last May, at the 2nd Christian Resources exhibition at Sandown Park, Mr Rees, a minister of the Elina (Pentecostal) Church, arranged the inaugural meeting of "European Religious Broadcasters". Numbers of leading religious broadcasters from the BBC and IBA worlds accepted invitations to a gala dinner, at which the main speaker was billed as Pat Robertson, the televangelist who has been challenging, with mixed success, for the US Republican presidential nomination.

Mr Robertson did not appear, and the guests were enthusiastic about paying \$100 to join the new organization.

Meanwhile, Mr Rees's previous employers, the Crusade for World Re-

newal, last August had their new headquarters opened by Viscount Tonypan, former Speaker of the House of Commons and lifelong Methodist lay preacher.

The lavishly restored premises at Waverley Abbey House, near Farnham, Surrey, include provision for a TV studio. On opening day they were only a shell, but they hope quite soon to be producing a weekly Christian documentary for satellite transmission.

Another Pentecostal enterprise is in Nottingham, where the Assemblies of God have their national centre. There, Ken Calder, has built on the centre's years of making Christian radio programmes for short-wave stations abroad, and now provides "shoe-string" TV discussions for the access channels of UK cable stations, including Clyde in Glasgow, Crystal Cable in Croydon, and Swindon Viewpoint.

For Swindon, early production was a two-hour discussion on abortion, in which all the participants took the pro-life view. Such a programme could have fallen foul of the "due impartiality" requirements of the IBA Act, but the Cable Authority was ready to allow it, along with other similar material made in Swindon by the UK offshoot of the international production company, World Vision.

All this enterprise risks making religious TV only for the religious. To keep other doors ajar, the European Ecclesiastical Satellite Conference met in Strasbourg two years ago, and is now working with those who had held their first meeting a month earlier in Brussels, under the aegis of the Roman Catholic broadcasting organization, Unisat.

Christopher Martin

The revolution may be late, but it will happen

By Richard Burton,
Chairman of the
Cable Authority

By common consent, the birth of cable has been a difficult one. But that should not discourage anyone from believing that the future of cable is bright. The country needs modern cable networks and it will get them.

It was clear from the outset that the development of the cable industry was going to be a long haul. I doubt if anyone really believed that it was, as is sometimes suggested, a business in which to make a quick buck.

The capital investment is so large, and the sheer task of constructing a cable network so enormous, that it must be a business for those with deep pockets and the patience to await a financial return.

The environment created by the Government offers many commercial attractions. It is only now being recognized that the ability to offer a real consumer choice in TV means more of a public need than had been supposed.

One hears far less often the claim that with one of the best broadcasting systems in the world, viewers do not want anything else.

The enormous expansion of the video industry has already proved otherwise. Now we are seeing that cable viewers are revelling in the choice they have and spending comparatively little of their time watching the broadcast services which were supposed to give them everything.

But cable is about much more than television choice. The Government also placed cable operators very firmly in the new competitive world of telecommunications.

Cable operators are installing new broad-band communication networks which they have the right to use to provide telecommunication services in competition with British Telecom.

The end of 1987 saw two



Burton: a long haul to get cable TV established

cable operators starting rival telephone services, although until 1990, they are permitted to do this only in association with Mercury. And the capabilities of such a network allow cable to provide some services, such as remote access to a video-disc library, which can be provided by no other means.

This means that cable cannot readily be superseded by any other technology. Those who think that satellites will make cable redundant fail to understand their limited role in distributing television services, but even then at greater cost to the consumer than cable.



Cable operators can pick up satellite services, such as Sky Channel, and distribute them to subscribers

It is only cable which combines multi-channel television and advanced telecommunications in one medium.

It has taken some time for that simple fact to be understood. Happily, we are now seeing the interest in cable growing as the reality of its role in the future is more widely perceived. It looks, at last, as if we shall begin to get cable into the ground at the rate that was originally hoped.

There are still factors which hold that back. One is undoubtedly the legal restriction on foreigners' controlling cable operations in this country. We see a great deal of interest in the British cable market from North American cable operators who have successfully developed their own industries to the point where they have to look overseas for expansion.

However, the Americans, faced with a statute that prevents their controlling a UK business, do not feel that they can easily play a full part. There are some North Americans who believe nevertheless that it is worth investing in a

big way in this country.

If only the restriction had not existed, I believe that activity in the British cable industry would have been transformed by now.

Another technology which is now gaining much attention is microwave video distribution (MVDS). This has the advantage of being able to provide a number of new TV channels by means of terrestrial microwave transmissions.

Its affinity to cable television has led to its being described in the US as "wireless cable".

Unfortunately, it cannot offer the capabilities of cable, even in the television field. It provides fewer channels of TV and then only to those households which can erect an aerial with direct line of sight to a transmitter. A significant proportion of people will always be out of sight.

The more substantial limitation on MVDS is that it provides only one-way distribution of television signals without any interactivity or the capability for communications traffic. It can hardly be a substitute for cable.

Yet we see attractions in MVDS as a way of bringing TV choice to viewers sooner than could possibly be done by the traditional construction of cable systems, which is always a long-term undertaking.

The idea of combining the advantages of MVDS and broad-band cable is very attractive.

We could seize the short-term benefits of the one, with the longer-term advantages of the other. This is a proposition that we have urged on the Government and we hope that its appeal will lead it to authorize such a step.

The cable revolution has been a little while in arriving. We will not be satisfied until the greater part of the country is served by broad-band cable. The signs now are that this could be achieved rather sooner than some sceptics believe.

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FOCUS

CABLE AND SATELLITE/3

The difficulties of organizing an entertainment bonanza

Golden age of viewing is yet to dawn

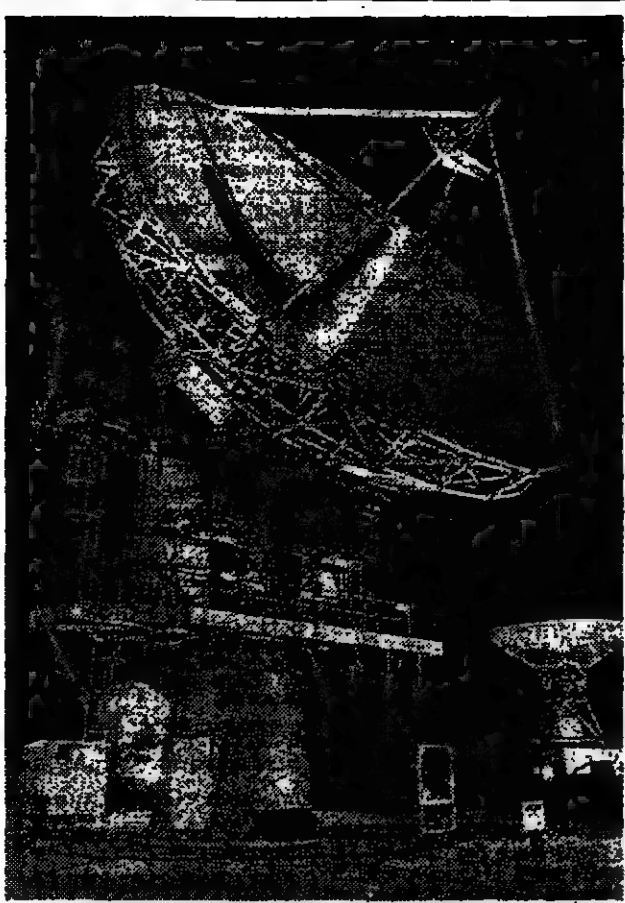
Since the late 1970s pundits and programme-makers have been predicting the arrival of a new golden age of television with an explosion of channels and viewing choice — an age which has so far obstinately refused to dawn.

Two rival groups are poised to begin wooing the British viewer. Astra, the 16-channel, medium-power satellite to be launched on the European Ariane rocket in October or early November, is the \$90 million brainchild of the Luxembourg-based Société Européenne des Satellites, largely owned by European financial institutions, but with Thames Television, Ulster Television and TSW among its investors.

BSB won a franchise from the Independent Broadcasting Authority just over a year ago, to operate a high-power, three-channel DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service for the UK only, to be launched in the autumn of 1989.

BSB is cited at \$625 million (considerably more than Astra, despite fewer channels). In addition BSB produces programmes, and expects a cumulative loss on its three advertising supported services of £250 million over its first three years.

BSB is also paying more on its satellite — £200 goes to Hughes Aircraft and Hughes' launch sub-contractor, McDonnell Douglas, for building and putting into orbit two high-power satellites. Astra is paying \$90 million to RCA, the manufacturer, and Ariane,



Aerials scanning the skies at Guwahati Dowa

the launcher. BSB gets a satellite whose power produces signals that can be received on dishes no bigger than a dinner plate.

Astra's signals need bigger dishes, although recent increases in power and reductions in size have produced a reception dish 60 cm across.

To receive both signals, viewers will need two separate dishes pointing at different points in the sky, or a single dish which can be redirected by means of a small electric motor.

BSB's investors, who have so far stumped up £225 million, include Granada Group and Anglia TV, Pearson, Virgin, the Bond Corporation of Australia, Reed International, Next, and the French transport company Chaussons. The three channels will carry Now, a 24-hour news service; Gal-

axy, a downmarket entertainment service; Zig-Zag, a children's service; and Screen, a subscription film service, which will share the third channel.

There are problems: can BSB, as it claims, produce a satellite dish-and-decoder set for a mere £200? It has a strong team, including Bob Hunter, a former ITN executive, appointed to run the Now channel; Andy Birchall, former chief executive of Robert Maxwell's satellite-to-cable film channel Premiere, to run the Screen service; marketing director Peter Bell, formerly at Whitbread, and chief executive Anthony Simmonds-Gooding, from Satchi & Satchi.

Though the team lacks programming expertise, programmes of high quality are promised, and will be vital if BSB is to win viewers from

ITV and the BBC, with specialized and carefully targeted programmes, such as four feature films a night, and nightly sport. Mr Simmonds-Gooding's main hopes of making money are pinned on advertising revenue.

Advertisers will, for the first time, have a significant alternative to the ITV/Channel 4 monopoly, and Mr Bell confidently expects some eight million viewers to be generating £250 million advertising a year by 1996, compared with £1,670 M for the existing channels.

For those wary of a torrent of sex and violence being unleashed by satellite, Mr Simmonds-Gooding points out that BSB is a British-based service, licensed by the IBA, and subject to the same strict regulation of programming and advertising as ITV or Channel 4.

Astra has to persuade its potential clients that their existing customers, the European cable operators, will turn their reception dishes to face Astra, and that viewers will also flock to buy their own reception equipment.

Astra's ideal channel line-up would offer a choice of six "pan-European" channels, broadcast in several languages simultaneously.

Twenty-four hour music channels

These might include 24-hour news, music, sport, cultural, children's and film channels, some advertising-supported, some funded by subscriptions.

Most of the possible Astra channels already exist. In the UK there is Rupert Murdoch's Sky Channel, and the ITV companies' Super Channel (both general entertainment). Robert Maxwell's pop channel MTV, and film channel Premiere, W. H. Smith's Children's channel, Lifestyle and Screensport and the US Cable News Network, all of them self-proclaimed Astra clients.

Thames Television, Carlton Communications and a sports service planned jointly by Rupert Murdoch and the European Broadcasting Union are still at the planning stage.

Eleven of Astra's 16 channels are being marketed in the UK by British Telecom International, but so far Steve Maine, BTI's head of vision services, has failed to persuade any to sign on the dotted line, partly because of wrangles over which transmission standard the channels will use, but chiefly because none is willing to pay Astra's asking price of nearly £5 million a year a channel.

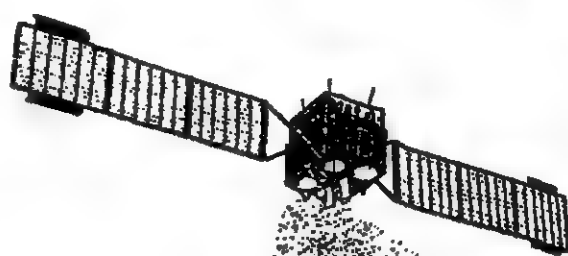
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will be opportunities for dealers to set up Subscription Services for PAY TV.

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Kinnock to tour African states

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is to visit the southern African front-line states in July, he disclosed yesterday as he returned from his week-long trip to the Middle East.

Preparations are well advanced for the Labour leader to hold talks in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and possibly Mozambique, he said on his way home from Israel.

The trip may embarrass the Prime Minister as the opportunity will be taken on all sides to highlight her opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa. Mr Kinnock will not go to South Africa.

Mr Kinnock, buoyant after what he and his senior staff regarded as one of his most successful foreign visits, will swiftly take steps to inform the United States and Soviet governments about the outcome of his talks with Middle East leaders.

In an effort to add momentum to the proposal for an international peace conference and to maintain the bipartisan British approach to the Palestinian question, the Foreign Office is also expected to be given a detailed report on Mr Kinnock's discussions in Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the occupied territories.

Mr Kinnock wants the parties to any potential conference to be aware of the latest thinking in Cairo, Amman and Jerusalem and among Palestinian leaders before Mr George Shultz arrives in the Middle East this week.

Mr Kinnock's decision to go to another of the world's trouble spots so soon after the Middle East will be seen as part of his continuing effort to boost his international stature.

He has already announced that he is going to Moscow later this year - probably before the Africa trip.

Mr Kinnock is ready to ride out criticism that as Opposition leader he can achieve little and that, as an unnamed Israeli official had been reported as saying, he was trying to become "an instant expert".

Instant expert or not, he succeeded in conveying to a wide audience outside Israel the tragedy of the occupied territories with their appalling conditions and the disclosure - not denied by Israeli ministers - that the uprising had led to people being shot in the back.

Mr Kinnock said his African mission would have a similar aim. The front-line states were "subject to continual destabilization and disadvantage either by direct South African attack or by South African-sponsored terrorism on a wide organized scale". It was necessary to draw attention to that.

He supported Mrs Thatcher's commitment to give aid to front-line states but added: "It is also necessary to examine at the point of pressure the necessity for additional and alternative strategies like the imposition of comprehensive sanctions".

Cosmonaut walks tall after record flight



Raring to go: Commander Romanenko proves the mission did not impair his health, left, while enjoying a family holiday, above, in Kislovodsk.

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Commander Yuri Romanenko, the record-breaking Soviet cosmonaut, has recently been going through his athletic paces at the Caucasian mountain resort of Kislovodsk to demonstrate that stories about his poor health were an invention dreamed up by the Western media. He touched down last month after spending 326 days in space.

Photographs have been released here showing Mr Romanenko along with his cosmonaut colleague, Mr Aleksandr Aleksandrov, performing a series of testing physical exercises at the health resort, where they have been resting with their families. Some western reports alleged that the space ordeal had left Commander Romanenko damaged both physically and mentally.

Commander Romanenko, who had to be helped to stand in the helicopter which picked him up after his landing on the steppes of Soviet Kazakhstan, has demonstrated his good-natured charm in several interviews since his return. He grew taller by 0.4 inches

Land Rover strike

Continued from page 1

The current offer was "absolutely final". No talks are planned between the two sides and Mr John Allen, West Midlands divisional organizer of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "The workers are in angry mood and are determined to stay out for as long as it takes to get a negotiated settlement with the company."

However, Land Rover managers are not convinced that the workforce, which voted two to one for industrial action two weeks ago, is solidly behind union officials. A MORI poll conducted by telephone is said to have revealed an almost even split in support for the dispute.

Land Rover produce about 1,000 vehicles a week in what is regarded as a "luxury" market and expects to lose around £3 million a day if production comes to a standstill.

The company is convinced that its customers, who have to wait two months for delivery, will be willing to wait a little longer if necessary, but a prolonged strike could open the way for Japanese competition to make serious inroads into orders.

A long strike would also affect the launch of the new £27,000 Vogue SE model scheduled for March 1.

At present, a Grade 3 day-shift worker at Land Rover receives a basic rate of £145.80 basic rate, plus a £7 attendance allowance and £23 a week in bonuses for efficiency and quality for a total of £175.80.

The new offer would provide for £156 a week basic, plus £8.50 attendance and £22 in bonuses for a total of £186.50, an increase of £10.70, the equivalent of 6 per cent more in the first year of the deal.

As part of the package, workers are also being given a £100 single payment for going from a weekly pay packet to credit transfer.

The unions are demanding that the £8.50 attendance allowance should be consolidated in basic pay, and they say that the overall package is only worth 8 per cent over two years.

Last night, Land Rover said that the offer union leaders had rejected last week would give their members £13 a week more than the deal accepted by Ford union negotiators. "There are a lot of misleading comparisons being used, but our people do not have to work night shifts, which boost the Ford workers earnings", it said.

The unions point out that the company made a profit of £3 million in 1986 and is on course to make about £14 million for 1987, but the company says that, on the turnover of £460 million a year, these are small margins to allow for investment.

Elsewhere in the industry, Vauxhall is expected to meet union leaders this week over threatened strike action by its 24,000 production workers. As Ford, foremen are threatening to organize a strike, but unless they get more than the 5 per cent they have been offered.

Commando executions Waldheim 'on wanted list'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence team investigating the execution of British Special Boat Squadron commandos by the German SS during the Second World War will examine a top-secret file which allegedly contains a list of wanted Nazi intelligence officers, including Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim, now the President of Austria.

The file was officially described yesterday as "a report prepared by the Allied Forces in April 26, 1945". Neither the Foreign Office nor the Ministry of Defence would give any details because it is still classified.

But it is understood that the report was drawn up by British intelligence at the end of the war. A copy was passed to the Americans and it is now in the hands of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The 1945 Allied report was referred to by the historians' commission set up in Austria to examine President Waldheim's war record. But even its members were not allowed to see the full report, and were shown limited extracts, sources said yesterday.

It is believed that the file is held by the Ministry of Defence. Yesterday, the Foreign Office categorically denied a report that the Americans had tried on a number of occasions to persuade Britain to declassify the material.

Documents that relate to intelligence matters are not subject to the normal 30-year rule which governs most Whitehall and government papers. Intelligence files are locked away forever, although there are periodic reviews.

It is understood, however, that this classified file does not focus in any way on the fate of the six British commandos who are known to have been executed after interrogation by intelligence officers of Unit 1C at the headquarters of German Army Group E. This is where Dr Waldheim was a junior intelligence officer.

The six commandos, Sub-Lieutenant Alan Tuckey, Sergeant George "Dusty" Miller, Gunner Ray Jones, Private L. Rice, Private A. Evans, and Radio Operator Ray Carpenter, were executed by firing squad in April 1944.

It is not known whether the British intelligence file of April 25, 1945, was examined by the Ministry of Defence when they were asked to investigate the deaths of the commandos in 1986. Following its inquiry, the MoD concluded that there was no evidence directly linking the interrogation and subsequent execution of the SBS men with Dr Waldheim.

But after the Prime Minister's announcement last week that the files were to be re-opened, the 16-man Ministry of Defence team is expected to examine every possible record of that period of the war relating to the interrogation of the British commandos in the Balkans.

The MoD said yesterday that the review would be "all-encompassing" and would include personal records, war diaries, casualty records and intelligence material.

Inquiry on TV stake

Continued from page 1

present battle against restrictive practices within the television industry, which has full Government support.

The IBA said: "The IBA was informed on 10 February, 1988 by Mr Timothy Aitken, chairman of TV-am of the full circumstances surrounding the investment in TV-am by interests in Saudi Arabia."

"The Broadcasting Act of 1981 requires that independent television companies may not be controlled outside the EEC. TV-am is not in breach of this requirement."

"The IBA will be considering what action to take in the light of these disclosures at its meeting on March 3."

The Saudi investment, initially of £2.1 million, was reportedly secured at the time of the company's formation by Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP and TV-am director whose cousin is the company chairman. More than £1 million extra was pumped in by the Saudis later.

Mr Jonathan Aitken yesterday denied the Saudis had any voting rights in TV-am.

RUC challenge

Continued from page 1

what many in the RUC have been saying privately. Ministers have been expecting Sir John to reply forthrightly to some of the allegations made by Mr Stalker in his memoirs, titled *Stalker*, and were in no doubt the head of the RUC would come out fighting.

They will be alarmed if the unprecedented public dumping match continues for long as the main beneficiaries will be both republican and "loyalist" terrorists.

The embattled chief constable has waited three weeks before launching his counter attack against Mr Stalker and the media which he accuses of being hysterical in their coverage of the affair and failing to understand the situation in Northern Ireland during the autumn of 1982.

Sir John and his closest colleagues have been stung by Mr Stalker's allegations but the chief constable remains confident telling colleagues he has no intention of resigning over the affair.

They say he had little concept of what was involved in policing Northern Ireland, a

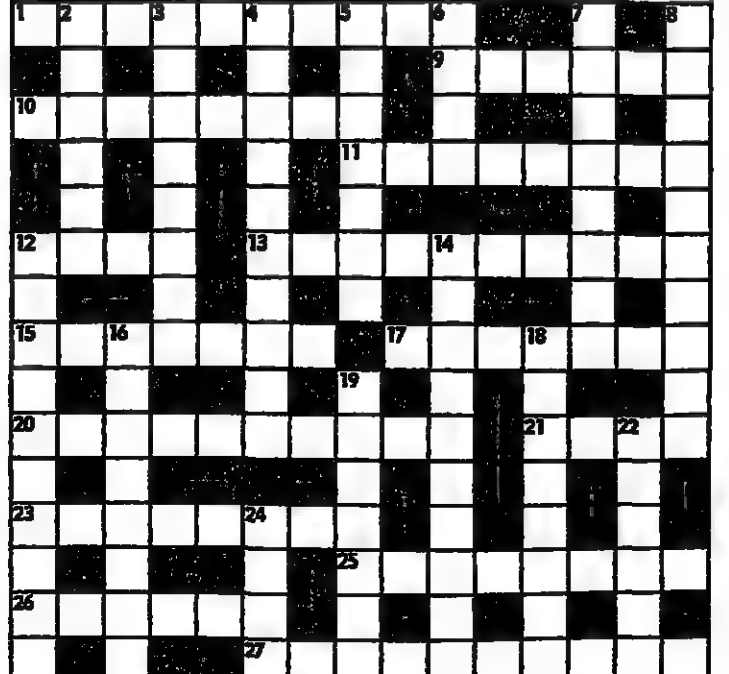
society where no consensus exists. The anger of the RUC is also directed at those officials who suggested Mr Stalker to head the inquiry. "Never again will we have someone foisted on us like that without being sure of their abilities. Some of these people have not a clue", a source said.

Sir John has already told members of the force that these were "misleading, distortions and inaccuracies" in Mr Stalker's book. Last night Mr Stalker's wife Stella said they had no comment to make on Sir John's allegations. "The book is truthful. If Sir John Harman has anything to say he can go through the proper channels of the publisher and then follow it through."

Mr Stalker said he believed he was removed from the inquiry because he was getting too near the truth rather than because of Protestant bigotry. Asked whether it was untenable for Sir John to remain chief constable during a period on investigation of senior officers, Mr Stalker said: "No, it is what is proved that matters."

Harney attack, page 2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,598



- ACROSS**
- To lead on is wrong, leading to great distress (10).
 - An admission of course (6).
 - Turn informer about the company that's found to be twisting (8).
 - Concerned with the way a foreign priest provides therapy (4-4).
 - Fare offered in some nurseries (4).
 - A number to irritate a woman? (10).
 - Vengeance, making sin seem awful (7).
 - Disturbed by a few lines in the Old Testament (7).
 - American beggar - a kitchen worker? (10).
 - Prompt and quiet staff (4).
 - Non-professional dealing with an idler (8).
 - Esteem rate reform certain (8).
 - A Russian vehicle with ample horse-power (6).
 - Top of those starting school (5-5).
- DOWN**
- Call for more directions to the centre (6).
 - Proposal to provide public with running water (8).
 - Breaking off a story people make up (10).
 - Tearing madly about for an unappreciative individual (7).
 - The head may be under water (4).
 - Drinks will be provided for the men on board (8).
 - Outraged, though that may be dead secret (10).
 - Mark one turning up at the last minute for work (10).
 - "For forms of contest" (Pope) (10) - let fools contest (5-3).
 - Genuine acceptance of publicity is giving satisfaction (8).
 - After midnight youngsters sparkle (7).
 - Big bloomer made by a revered figure in ancient Egypt (6).
 - A Scandinavian writing of taking in the French (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SEA-ING DOUBLE

DOUBLE LAST

- A winning throw at dice
- Appetite for making sea-boats
- A stick

SPANISH BUKTON

- Walking the plank
- Poor quality beer sold in Gibraltar
- A purchase

DOUBLE CLUES

- Getting married
- A wireless slipknot
- A nautical crossword

MATTHEW WALKER

- An American privateer
- A rope's end
- A wisened oath

Answers on page 22, column 1

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,597 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

An anticyclone centred over southern England will decline as a cold front advances from the north. Most southern and eastern districts will have a dry though rather cloudy day with sunny spells slowly developing, particularly in the Midlands and south-western districts. Much of Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England will have a bright start, but cloud and a little rain will spread from the north during the day. Outlook: noticeably colder.

AROUND BRITAIN

| | Sun Sun | Rain in | Max C | F | MIDDAY: 2-thund at-sleet: sn-gr |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|----|------------------------------------|
| Scarboro | 0.1 | - | 9 | 48 | C F |
| Humberston | - | - | 8 | 46 | cloudy |
| Lowestoft | 0.3 | - | 9 | 48 | bright |
| Clacton | 0.2 | - | 9 | 48 | cloudy |
| Southend | 0.9 | - | 10 | 50 | cloudy |
| Margate | - | - | 8 | 46 | dull |
| Algers | - | - | - | - | 16 51 |
| Amsterdam | - | - | - | - | 7 45 |
| Athens | - | - | - | - | 9 48 |
| Bahrain | - | - | - | - | 19 56 |
| Belgrade | - | - | - | - | 1 30 |

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)
FT 30 Share
1382.6 (-2.4)
FT-SE 100
1729.8 (-4.2)

Bargains
26331 (20092)
USM (Datastream)
145.28 (+0.51)

THE POUND

(Change on week)
US dollar
1.7510 (+0.0110)
W German mark
2.9863 (+0.0063)
Trade-weighted
74.3 (+0.2)

US NOTEBOOK

Markets take calmer view

From Maxwell Newton
New York

Some calm has returned to the financial markets. Bond prices have mainly held their ground and dollar futures have also withstood some tests.

These have included one from the chartists who have been indicating that the dollar may have reached a temporary resistance level and could fall back.

Among the positive developments of last week were:
● The industrial production figures for January indicated a low production rate for cars, an impression confirmed by a quite sharp drop in the motor industry operating rate in the same month.

MI falls

● The latest money figures, showing a sharp drop in M1 from the January peak, helped to calm fears that the small boom in gross January money was pointing to excessive easing by the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Funds rate, which collapsed on February 9, returned to a much more acceptable level of about 6 1/4 per cent. This removed a large area of uncertainty.

● Housing starts topped. In January they fell to a level about 24 per cent below that of January 1987 and were down by 18 per cent since last September.

● Commodity price futures have fallen again. The Commodity Research Bureau index was down to just over 230 by the end of the week. Crude oil futures remained weak and the metals were also at low levels. Inflation fears are still raised by some analysts but there is no indication from the commodity markets of such thinking.

These reassuring indicators point to the prospect of intensifying competition in the US domestic economy and a continuation of the trend of flat nominal imports and declining import volume that marked the second half of 1987.

None of this can be taken as definite evidence of an early solution to the US problem of over-consumption and excessive imports as the January and December retail sales figures are still being cited as evidence of too much personal spending.

Sales leap

Of crucial importance in the interpretation of these figures is the true significance of the strong level of car sales in December and January. The annual rate of domestic car sales in the 30 days to February 10 was 8.2 million, way above the "trend" level of 7 million units.

But car production remains about 25 per cent below the latest month's sales rate. This raises the possibility that the high sales rate may reflect discount selling by car makers from their excessively high stocks.

The stark contrasts between fewer housing starts and apparently strong car sales and between huge stocks at the retail level and growing retail sales raises the question as to how much discount selling is behind the apparent retail sales strengths.

This remains one of the most important questions to be answered during this March quarter.

Meanwhile, a rise in the personal savings rate since the October crash has led to the question: "Has the American consumer finally had enough?"

| | | | |
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CBI warning of rising costs

Prices to go up faster after higher pay deals

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Manufacturers' average prices are expected to rise at a slightly faster rate over the next four months, according to the latest industrial trends survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), which also shows industrialists looking to further strong growth in output.

The hint of such price increases — as higher pay settlements have come through — is bound to be worrying for the Government as another possible sign of overheating in the economy.

The CBI was quick to play this down. Mr John Cuff, the CBI's economic director, said: "Although prices are expected to rise slightly faster than hitherto, this could hardly be described as significant evidence of overheating. However, manufacturers must continue to be vigilant to ensure that their competitive edge is not whittled away."

But signs of rising prices are bound to fuel speculation that

the Chancellor's attitude on raising interest rates will harden.

A balance of 33 per cent of those in the February survey expected to put up prices. This was lower than in January, when the balance anticipating rises was 39 per cent, but there has been a trend for the first month of the year to be distorted because of the widespread issuing of revised price lists. In December, the balance was 31 per cent and it had been below the 30 per cent level earlier.

The manufacturers are still struggling off any significant impact of recent stock market turmoil. A total of 43 per cent expected output to increase over the next four months with only 7 per cent anticipating a drop, leaving a positive balance of 36 per cent.

This was the same as in November after which the balance had slipped back to 31 per cent in December and only 26 per cent in January as industrialists became more

cautious about prospects.

Export order books, which had looked more pinched in December and January, have fattened again, recovering to the level seen in November. A balance of 12 per cent in the survey reported order books above normal, compared with 4 per cent in December and 5 per cent in January. It had then looked particularly as if sterling's strength against the American dollar might be taking its toll.

Order books overall continue to be buoyant. A balance of 20 per cent said they were above normal, the same level as in January, and the highest balance since the question was first asked in 1977.

The proportion of companies reporting order books fatter was 31 per cent with only 11 per cent saying they were below normal.

Stocks were again reported to be slightly less than adequate to meet expected demand.

Labour backs industry against dearer power

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Labour's energy spokesman, Mr John Prescott, is backing the CBI's campaign against the Government's proposed electricity price rises.

Mr Prescott claimed yesterday Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, is avoiding meeting the CBI because "he knows they will tell him the price increase is nothing more than a privatization tax."

The CBI has published an analysis of the government case for raising prices. It will discuss this on Wednesday when it is expected formally to announce its opposition.

Industry has consistently argued it pays more for power than its main overseas competitors and that from April 1 it will face higher electricity bills at a time when companies are investing all available money in new equipment to ensure long-term competitiveness.

The CBI was due to meet Mr Parkinson a week ago, but the meeting was cancelled at short notice because of ministerial commitments. No new meeting has been scheduled.

Mr Prescott said yesterday: "Mr Parkinson's claim that the 15 per cent increase over two years is necessary to finance a normal rate of return and for future investment has been totally discredited."

"The CBI's report, carried

out by an independent body, states emphatically that Mr Parkinson's argument is erroneous and that there is no basis on which to raise electricity prices."

Many senior members of the electricity supply industry privately admit there is no reason to raise prices at this stage other than to meet new financial targets set by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement last November.

The CBI report, conducted by Dr Dieter Helm of the London Business School and Professor Colin Mayer of the City University Business School, found no basis for raising electricity prices now.

The report says the decision is based on two erroneous premises. The first is that prices should be set at a level to achieve a normal return on the replacement cost value of assets employed. The second is that prices should be set at a level which encourages adequate investment.

The report's authors say present prices are not relevant to investment appraisals.

CBI attack, page 27

Union attack

The Commons Energy Select Committee, studying how the electricity industry should be privatized, has been told it should consider whether it should be sold at all.

The trade unions in the industry say the committee had taken privatization as a fact, without inquiring whether there was any case for it in the first place.

The unions unanimously oppose privatization — a week ago we wrongly said the Engineers' and Managers' Association/Electrical Power Engineers' Association was not fundamentally opposed to it.

The unions also say privatization would end the nuclear power programme and that the CBE should keep control of the national grid.

£100m flotation for UK Paper

By Michael Tate

Institutional investors will receive a pathfinder prospectus today for a £100 million flotation next month of UK Paper, the former Bowater paper business and the country's largest manufacturer of high quality printing papers.

An offer for sale is planned to raise between £25 million and £30 million, of which approaching £15 million will be new money. The balance will represent sales by the management and institutional investors who backed the September 1986 management buyout from the Bowater Group.

The final hurdle to the flotation was cleared last week when the group sold its packaging paper mill and

waste paper business to David S Smith for £10.65 million, leaving UK Paper as a pure white paper group.

The prospectus will show that trading profits at UK Paper, which was valued at £38 million by the management buy-out, have climbed from £4.3 million in 1985 to £15.6 million last year, ignoring the benefits of a £1.7 million pension holiday and £1 million of currency profits. Turnover rose from £136.3 million to £186.4 million.

It was the potential of the transformed company that persuaded Mr Tom Wilding, Bowater director, and now UK Paper chairman, and 70 of his colleagues, Scandinavian Bank and a string of institutions to undertake the buyout.

British Gas limits international role

By Our Energy Correspondent

British Gas, which has taken a majority stake in the Bow Valley oil and gas company and is bidding £300 million for 70 per cent of Petrocorp, the New Zealand state oil and gas company, said yesterday that it has no intention of becoming an international company.

Sir Denis Rooke, the chairman, said on the Channel 4 Business Programme that the core business of British Gas was to supply its existing customers.

He said: "For the future there is no question of us becoming a mainly international company or a great conglomerate. As far ahead as I can see that core business will be our main business. There is no question of us

walking away from the UK."

Sir Denis said that he was confident of winning control of Petrocorp in spite of a possible battle by BIL, Sir Ron Brierley's investment group.

He said: "As far as I can see we are going to have the 70 per cent government holding. It seems to me inconceivable that anyone else will tender their shares to Sir Ron unless he offers a great deal more."

BIL is seeking permission to increase its existing 15 per cent shareholding in Petrocorp.

Sir Denis said if BIL is prepared to pay more than the NZ\$1.75 a share that British Gas is offering it is surprising that the New Zealand government did not accept a BIL bid in the first place.

The company's margins were squeezed during the first half of 1987 because of the costs it incurred in bidding for a number of new contracts to rebuild its order book, and it was also affected by expected losses from two acquisitions — Signal Processing Systems and Sea Data. As a result, Pacer, which specializes in anti-submarine, amphibious warfare and mine counter measures, managed to increase profits during the interim stage by just 8 per cent to \$707,000 (£403,769) on turnover more than a third higher at \$15.9 million.

While its short-term performance may have been a little dull, it is now on a solid footing and should soon start to do better. Analysts are looking for a 10 per cent increase in profits for the full year — due out on March 2.

USM REVIEW

The pace that impressed Pacer

By Carol Leonard

The British are invariably wary of American companies who come to Britain for their stock market quotes — sometimes with good cause.

But according to Pacer Systems, the US defence group which has had a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market since 1985, the comparatively cheap cost, and the receptiveness of the leading stockbroking houses to smaller companies all made Britain infinitely more attractive than their native America and its closest equivalent to the USM, Nasdaq.

Mr Paul Scroftin, a Pacer spokesman, said: "The cost was about half what it would have been in the US and we were able to get a top firm like Simon & Coates (now, ironically, part of Chase Manhattan) to advise us, whereas no reputable firm in the US wanted to be bothered with us because we were too small."

chairman of Pacer, it was not only the costs which would have been twice as much in the US. "The whole process of finding a British broker to first dealings — took 17 weeks," he said. "That was astounding to us, since the same process in the US would take probably twice that long."

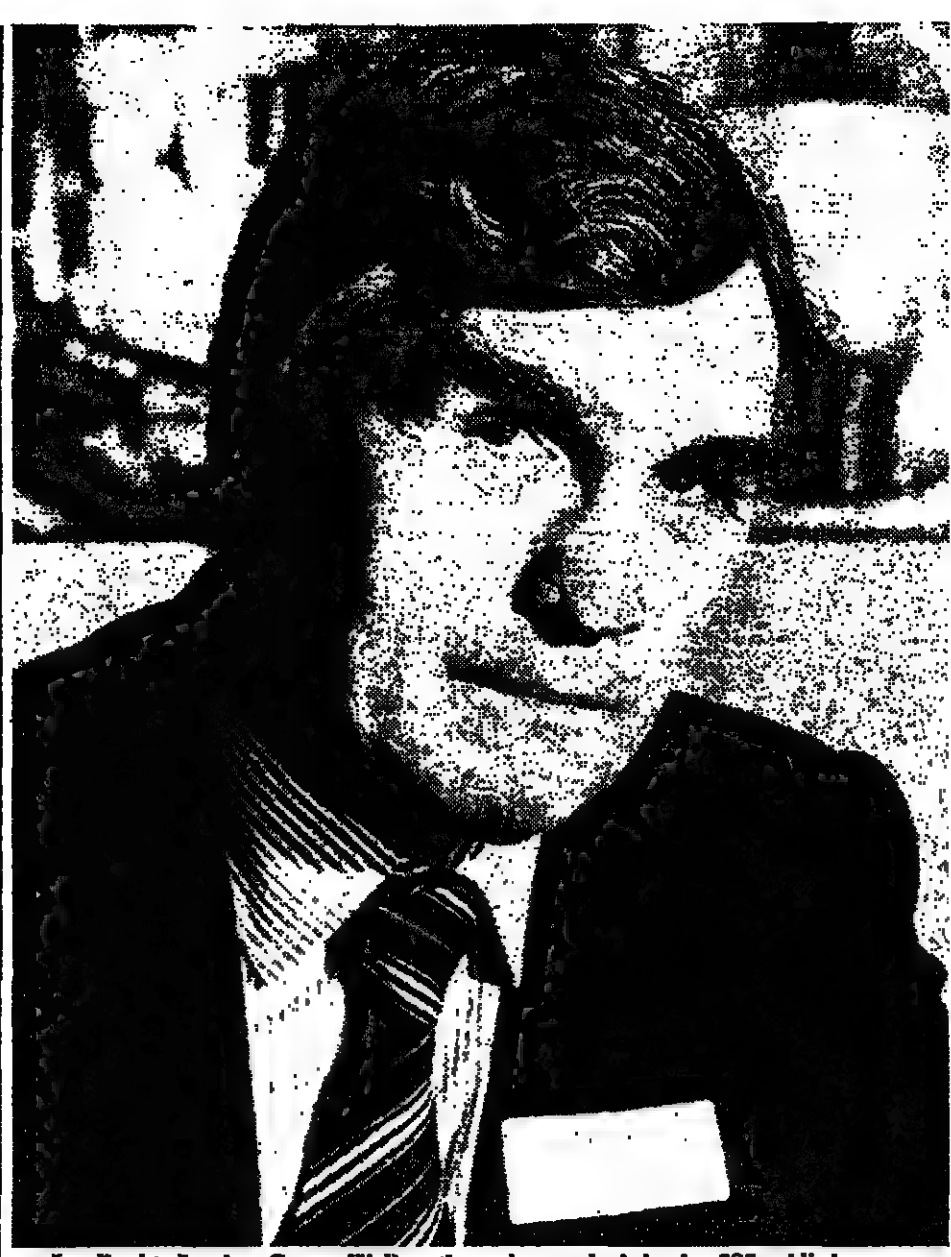
Mr Rennie, who founded the Boston, Massachusetts, company with two school friends in 1968, also cited the

USM prices — 28

"exceptional civility of all concerned" with the process characterized, he said, by "co-operation, positive attitudes and constructive support." He was also impressed by the diligence with which documents were researched.

"Those with responsibilities to investigate Pacer were thorough, yet cordial throughout. There was absolutely nothing significant that escaped."

According to Mr John Rennie, the



Landlord to London: George Walker, the ex-boxer who is buying 385 public houses

£80m GrandMet pubs sale

By Michael Tate

Mr George Walker, the former professional boxer, will become one of London's biggest publicans today, when his Brent Walker property and leisure group reveals that it is buying 385 public houses in and around London from Grand Metropolitan for about £45 million.

Brent Walker is buying the bulk of the 701 tenanted public houses put on the market by GrandMet. Mr Gerald Ronson's privately-owned Heron International, thought to be acting in tandem with Mr Nazim Virani, the former head of Belhaven, the Scottish brewery, is buying a

block of 200 in the north Midlands, for a price likely to be in the region of £24 million and the remaining 106, located along the south coast, have been bought by Gibbs Mew, the USM-quoted Salisbury, Wiltshire, brewer for £12 million.

Most of them trade under Watney Mann and Truman, although the south coast group operates under Usher. The price of the entire package is £80 million, somewhat below the £150 million that analysts were predicting when GrandMet put it up for sale this month.

But GrandMet says the ana-

lysts were wrong. All the pubs being sold are small, and worth only about £100,000 each, against the average for the industry of twice as much. The group points out that the price represents a £25 million profit on their book value of September 1985.

They have been sold because they did not fit in with the hotels and drinks combine strategy for the 1990s, which envisages a market dominated by bigger and wider-ranging hotels.

As a result of the deal, the group will improve the quality of its estate and reduce its gearing by about 6 per cent.

London Forfeiting oversubscribed

By John Bell, City Editor

The £160 million flotation of London Forfeiting, the international trade finance house, was oversubscribed, despite a last-minute postal hitch. Investors put up £105.3 million for 65.8 million shares, 1.3 times the number offered.

The offer for sale, the biggest ever on the Unlisted Securities Market, is seen in the City as an acid test for the new issue market, which effectively went into limbo after the October crash.

London Forfeiting, a highly specialized niche operation, has not attracted as much interest as the launch of the more glamorous AMI Healthcare, whose offer was subscribed 3.3 times.

London Forfeiting has decided to favour the private investor. Applications of up to 10,000 will be allotted in full. Applicants who sought between 11,000 and 140,000 shares will receive 75 per cent. There will be a 60 per cent

ceiling on applications for 150,000 or more.

Half the shares on offer were bought by the general investing public. Qualifying shareholders of British & Commonwealth, who received priority since LF was a subsidiary before the issue, took 48 per cent of the stock on offer. Employees purchased the rest.

Dealings start on Thursday, with a premium expected.

Kuwait 'will not interfere at BP'

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Kuwait's oil minister yesterday repeated that his country will not use its 20 per cent stake in British Petroleum to demand a seat on the board of the company or to interfere in any way in management decisions.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah, the oil minister and deputy chairman of the Kuwait Investment Agency, told members of the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies, that the holding had been built up purely as a long-term investment.

Sheikh Ali, who was meeting members of the centre to discuss the implications of the reduction of the British mine-sweeper fleet in the Gulf area, also denied suggestions that the investment had been made at the British Government's instigation after the disastrous sale by the Treasury of the 31.5 per cent stake it held in BP last November. The share was left with the underwriters when the stock market crashed four days after the price was fixed.

Sheikh Ali's remarks come closely after comments from Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, that there were misgivings in the company about the size of the Kuwaiti holding in BP.

Sir Peter said that he had received assurances from Kuwait that the stake was being built up solely as an investment and that Kuwait had no intention of interfering in the running of BP.

However, he said that it was up to BP to show that it was as independent as it had always been and combat the perception that some people had that the Kuwaiti stake would mean involvement in management decision-making by the Gulf oil state.

BP is likely to win Government approval for its takeover of Britoil, the Glasgow-based independent, this week, after confirming to the Treasury that it will retain the existing Britoil operations in Glasgow and graft on to them its own North Sea operations.

The assurances have been demanded by the Treasury as the price for removing its opposition to the takeover and not exercising the power of veto it holds through its golden share in Britoil. It is likely the Government will retain the golden share to ensure that the BP assurances made during the past three weeks are firmly adhered to.

Abu Dhabi has paid \$120 million (£68.57 million) to acquire 10 per cent of CEPSA, Spain's largest refining and petro-chemical company.

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ANALYSIS

The eagle preens its image as vultures hover overhead

Will Ultramar become a casualty of low oil prices and takeover fever? There are at least as many reasons for supposing that it will eat at the rich man's table, as for thinking it will be eaten. But the ways of the market are mysterious, and the jump in the share price indicates that Ultramar is, at least for now, seen as the prey.

The vultures are circling over the oil patch. There is the scent of blood in the air as they search out victims of the sliding oil price.

Tricentrol has already been consumed and Britoil is going the same way. In anticipation of further takeovers, oil shares are defying the laws of gravity, and have now parted company with the industry fundamentals in an unsustainable orgy of takeover speculation.

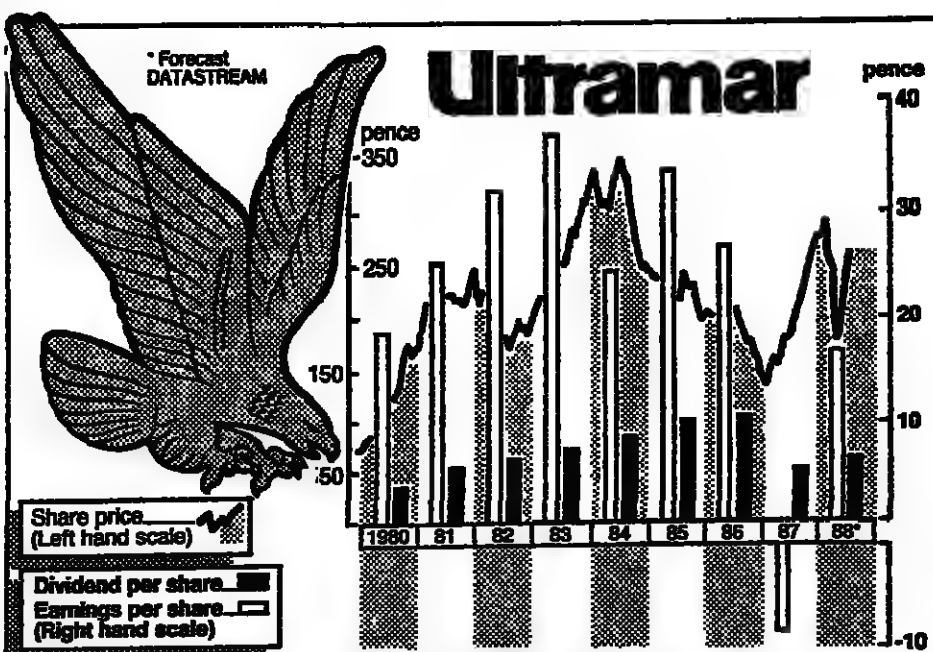
Crude prices are still declining. The dollar is weak and the market is awash with oil during an unseasonably warm European winter. But the slumping sterling oil price is sapping cash-flow, the life blood of the independent oil companies.

So far the sector has proved remarkably resistant to the so-called restructuring which many believe to be long overdue. The bids for Tricentrol and Britoil mark the beginning of the end for the independent oil sector, but it should not be forgotten that factors unique to each company gave them a special vulnerability.

Tricentrol, already emasculated and overburdened with debt, found it too difficult to put together an acceptable financing package. It had used up too much of its long-suffering shareholders' goodwill, and there was none left to call on when the crunch came.

Britoil, on the other hand, had been fat for too long. But its particular burden was the government's golden share which artificially depressed its share price, making for easy pickings by BP.

What Tricentrol and Britoil had in common was that their share prices had crashed with the market, creating the opportunity for bidders to come in with apparently generous offers in relation to their share prices. As the noise of the battle dies down, it is clear that neither has come cheap.



But oil is a long-term business, and those who are buying acreage or oil production at current prices will no doubt be well pleased in the 1990s, however inflated values may appear today.

Most of the oil sector divides neatly into predator and prey. The integrated oil majors are out hunting, and the independent explorers, from the tiny Pict Petroleum, which is capitalized at £21 million, to Enterprise Oil, capitalized at more than £800 million, are running for cover.

Ultramar, with a stock market capitalization of more than £720 million, does not fall decisively into either category. It is big enough to swallow some of the minnows, and it has a pressing need to acquire a sizeable stream of British taxable income to offset the unrelieved advance corporation tax (ACT) on its dividend payments.

But it is also unquestionably "in play," Sir Ron Brierley, with his 13 per cent share stake, has been a patient investor for some time. And last week's trading, in which 2 per cent of the company changed hands, has revived speculative interest.

Ultramar is a company of paradoxes. It is engaged in both the upstream and downstream phases of the business, yet is in no way integrated. It is quoted in London and three-quarters of its shareholders are British, yet its major profit sources are in

Canada — refining and marketing — and Indonesia, the production of liquefied natural gas (LNG). It has exploration and production interests, mainly in the North Sea and Eastern Canada, and a chain of petrol stations in California. It has been run largely by Americans and is "thinker" in dollars.

The group has staged a remarkable turnaround in its Canadian refining and marketing operation, and is now fundamentally in better shape than at any time in its recent history. Ultramar will be looking at a partial flotation on one of the Canadian stock exchanges once it has a couple of years of good profits in the bag.

Profits from its Indonesian LNG operations have suffered from the oil price decline, but it remains an unrivalled cash cow with a new contract to supply LNG to Taiwan.

The gas price is linked with the Opec oil price and a basket of currencies. The oil price is currently pegged at \$18 a barrel, and the dollar has been weak, a combination which has allowed the gas price to rise recently.

Over the last year, the group has disposed of nearly £60 million of surplus and peripheral assets, helping to reduce gearing, but arguably making it even more attractive to a predator. Yet it can be argued that Ultramar is not an obvious break-up situation for the asset strippers.

Disposal of its Indonesian assets, its exploration interests in the North Sea, are attractive, but relatively small. However it has formed out a 50 per cent share in its Canadian business to a Japanese group.

Ultramar may prove to be resistant to an asset-stripping exercise, but a predator could do worse than keep the group intact. He would gain access to the Indonesian cash flows and tax losses in Canada, although Ultramar is steadily using up the tax losses itself as Canada

has become profitable. Of greater value could be the accumulated unrelieved ACT in the United Kingdom. There are also some assets which could be sold off, such as the small marketing operation in California.

The idea that Ultramar could be in the market for a purchase itself is not to be lightly dismissed. Spinning off half its Canadian operations could give it enough funds to contemplate a purchase of at least £200 million. It would most likely look for a sizeable surplus in the United Kingdom to eliminate its ACT problem.

One of the group's problems has been the lack of a close relationship with the City. To remedy this, it has appointed Mr John Darby to the board as chairman, close to take over some of the duties of the present chairman and chief executive, Mr Lloyd Benson.

Mr Benson is the only remaining member of the triumvirate of the post-war generation of American managers headed by Mr Arnold Lobster, who resigned the chair in 1984.

Mr Benson will remain chief operating officer, based in the US. Mr Darby will be based in London to deal with the City, shareholders and strategy. Until last year, he was chairman of Arthur Young, fifth largest of the "big eight" accountancy firms, and has a long association with the oil industry dating back to the early Sixties when he was involved in valuing oil assets before the break-up of Stavac, a partnership between Exxon and Standard Vacuum, in the Far East.

Ultramar's preliminary results for 1987 are due to be reported on March 9. The group uses end-period exchange rates, and on December 31, the dollar was \$1.88 to the pound. As a result, Ultramar will be hard pressed to report net income much above £45 million.

At Friday's closing price of 279p, the prospective multiple is 16.5 and the yield a paltry 3.2 per cent.

The shares already look very expensive on fundamentals, and Mr Darby will need all his powers to charm them up should speculative interest wane.

Carol Ferguson

Stiff medicine needed for long-term health

The non-oil economy grew by nearly 5 per cent last year. This was considerably above most forecasts, including the Treasury's. It is also well above — perhaps even double — the sustainable growth rate in Britain at the moment. There ought, therefore, to be little surprise that the economy is showing considerable signs of strain.

Far and away the most ominous indicator of stress in the economy at the moment is the swing in the trade account from £0.5 billion surplus in the first quarter of last year to a deficit of nearly £0.5 billion in the final quarter.

There is also, however, clear evidence of problems in the labour market, perhaps surprisingly so in view of a rise in recorded vacancies last year of nearly 50,000. Not only has average earnings growth accelerated to 8.5 per cent a year, but most would agree that recent events in the motor industry and elsewhere indicate something of a sea change in the balance of industrial power.

Putting all this evidence alongside extremely rapid credit growth builds up a convincing picture of an economy in need of some pretty stiff medicine. There is, fortunately, every indication that this is precisely what it is going to get.

It is clear, for example, that the Bank of England would find little that was controversial in the above description of the state of the economy. Indeed, in the recent *Quarterly Bulletin*, its own conclusion to its economic assessment was that "monetary developments add to the impression of strong domestic demand and place a further premium on non-accommodating policy."

This is very tough stuff indeed. Stripping through the "Bank speak" the message is

that the Bank sees an increasing need for a stronger line on both interest rates and the exchange rate if current excesses are to be curbed. Indeed, the Bank gives the impression that the question is not what the sterling-mark exchange rate will be — it will be £1=DM3, but at what base rate will it be £1=DM3?

There has been a school of thought that this was all just the Bank being the Bank. The Treasury — the real boss these days — was thought to be much more relaxed, hence the income tax cuts in the Budget. Indeed, some have even levelled accusations of "Reaganomics" and talked of a tight monetary policy alongside slack fiscal policy.

All one can say is that if this is "slack" fiscal policy, a "tight" policy would be truly awesome. The PSBR looks like coming in with a £3 billion surplus in 1987-88. The Budget could well see a target set for 1988-89 of a surplus of £4 billion or more, or 1 per cent of GDP. There will, of course, be income tax cuts, but these will be more than fully funded out of budgetary revenues. On any measure, therefore, fiscal policy has tightened considerably since last summer when the economy began to accelerate, and will remain tight next year.

Where does this leave the gilt market? Confronted with a tough exchange rate policy and a strongly deflationary fiscal policy, the economy seems bound to slow rapidly over the coming months. This means that current inflationary pressures will soon fade and we expect inflation to remain below 4 per cent this year. The trade account outlook is more problematical but here too, while acknowledging the risks, one feels that a slowing economy ought soon to ease recent problems.

For all that, a tough line on base rates hardly seems like good news for the shorter end of the market this spring. Moreover, if the short end is under a cloud, progress at the long end is going to be well nigh impossible.

Looking through the spring, the fundamentals for long gilts nevertheless look strong. We estimate that there will be gross gilt sales of £3.8 billion in 1988-89 after £1.1 billion of sales in 1987-88.

This low funding requirement could run into sizeable institutional demand for gilts with the economy slowing and the outlook for equities still very clouded. But that technical situation alongside the modest inflation outlook and whatever disappointments there might be this spring, the longer-term prospects appear secure enough.

At the very least there is a strong message here for the shape of the yield curve. The story in gilts in 1987 was the move from a downward sloping yield curve to an upward sloping curve. This year should see a downward sloping curve return unless the economy proves much more difficult to brake than we envisage.

Even so, as policy tightens this spring, long yields could well soften further. Mr Lawson has nevertheless established a good record of delivering the goods in terms of lower inflation. Unless one believes that the Government is going to throw this all away at the start of its third term, gilt yields of 9.5 per cent-plus against the background of a world economy almost certainly slowing sharply represent good value for any investor prepared to take a view "into 89."

George Hodgson
Chief Economist, Citicorp
Springer Vickers Secs.

Pleasurama buys three more hotels

Pleasurama has bought three more Scottish hotels for its Norscot chain in separate deals to be announced today.

The hotels, costing around £1.5 million, are the 44-bedroom Royal Marine at

Nairn, the Great Western at Oban, with 73 bedrooms, and the Gairloch, at Gairloch on the West coast, with 35 bedrooms.

All are 3-star hotels in areas popular with tourists and businessmen and are expected

to make a significant contribution.

As a result, Norscot will own 18 hotels, with 1,400 bedrooms, in Scotland and the Lake District, lifting the Pleasurama group total to 44, with 3,300 bedrooms.

Carol Ferguson

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Starting Index compared with 1975 was same at 74.3 (day's range 74.1-74.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FUTURE RATES

| Market rates for September 22 | Close | 1 month | 3 month |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| London | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Frankfurt | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Paris | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Geneva | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Basel | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Brussels | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Amsterdam | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Stockholm | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Copenhagen | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Oslo | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Stockholm | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Copenhagen | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Oslo | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Stockholm | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Copenhagen | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |
| Oslo | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 | 1.7385-1.7517 |

Prerates = pr. Discount = 0.5.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentine austral — 9,518-10,040

Australian dollar — 2,432-2,437

Belgian franc — 36.36-36.73

British pound — 1.7385-1.7517

Canadian dollar — 1.7385-1.7517

French franc — 1.7385-1.7517

German mark — 1.7385-1.7517

Italian lire — 1.7385-1.7517

Japanese yen — 1.7385-1.7517

Norwegian krone — 1.7385-1.7517

Spanish peseta — 1.7385-1.7517

Swedish krona — 1.7385-1.7517

Swiss franc — 1.7385-1.7517

Thai baht — 1.7385-1.7517

US dollar — 1.7385-1.7517

Yugoslav dinar — 1.7385-1.7517

Rates supplied by Barclay's Bank NOKEX and Ecol.

FINANCE MARKETS

Overnight High: 9.00% Low: 8.50%

3 month: 9.00% 6 month: 9.00%

12 month: 9.00% 18 month: 9.00%

24 month: 9.00% 36 month: 9.00%

48 month: 9.00% 60 month: 9.00%

72 month: 9.00% 84 month: 9.00%

96 month: 9.00% 108 month: 9.00%

120 month: 9.00% 132 month: 9.00%

144 month: 9.00% 168 month: 9.00%

180 month: 9.00% 216 month: 9.00%

240 month: 9.00% 360 month: 9.00%

480 month: 9.00% 720 month: 9.00%

1080 month: 9.00% 1440 month: 9.00%

2160 month: 9.00% 3600 month: 9.00%

7200 month: 9.00% 14400 month: 9.00%

28800 month: 9.00% 57600 month: 9.00%

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CBI report attacks basis of proposed power price rises

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The CBI report into proposed electricity price rises says the increases are based on accounting methods which are wholly inappropriate for a competitive industry.

"In privatizing the electricity supply industry the Government has a clear choice. It can fulfil its objective of creating a competitive industry by adopting the appropriate principles, or it can continue to follow inappropriate accounting methods and pass the consequences on to captured consumers," it says.

The report adds that the proposed price rises are based on accounting valuations which are not appropriate for the industry because independent direct information exists

on the prices the industry pays for fuel.

"Current coal prices are not based on the opportunity cost of coal supplies, but rather on British Coal's own much higher cost structure, especially for deep-mine pits."

"Since the Secretary of State has made clear the intention to free the Central Electricity Generating Board from an obligation to purchase from British Coal, the future price of electricity in a competitive market will be driven by the path of coal prices."

The report adds: "It follows that if electricity is to be priced along competitive lines there is no case for increasing current prices on the grounds of current rates of return on existing assets."

"The Secretary of State for Energy has also provided a justification of price increases based on future investment requirements."

The report dismisses this as incorrect in a competitive industry. The economic value of a project depends on its own returns, not on previous investments. The probability of past investments is strictly irrelevant to the decision to invest.

Indeed in a competitive market, this option would not be available. Only the presence of barriers to entry and hence monopoly power permitted such a course of action.

The report adds that the accounting approach provides no basis for deciding price increases at the moment.

It says the price of electricity depends largely on the fuel costs to the generating stations and there is no reason to believe that these will rise in the medium term, and some grounds for expecting them to fall.

The report also gives warning that decisions made now on the pricing of electricity will have a long-term effect as the price set will be entrenched in the price control formula which will be imposed on a privatized electricity industry.

It says the Government will have to subsidize investment in nuclear power or insist that the electricity boards pass on the extra cost of nuclear power to the consumer if the nuclear programme is to be continued.

Labour snags of computer change

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The pace of change and the increasing complexity of computer technology is adding to the problems of business firms in recruiting and retaining experienced staff.

The speed of change means that computer skills quickly become outdated. "Boasting" is becoming widespread as a way of finding qualified staff.

These conclusions are published in the latest survey of computer staff by Incomes Data Services, which says some companies are reluctant to invest in training. Competition for staff is especially intense in London and the south-east.

IDS says shortages are most acute among programmers, analysts, systems and database analysts.

While demand for operations staff is relatively low, systems development and problem solving skills are much sought after.

The survey says: "Employers have come up with a variety of tactics to attract and hold on to valuable staff. These have included major changes to grading structures and salary progression systems, and to methods of reviewing salary scales."

It is now common, says the survey, for computer staff to have performance reviews. The range of merit payments is wide—exceptional performers may receive increases of up to 10 per cent on top of a general pay increase. In companies which have retained incremental progression, outstanding performers are rewarded.

There are also moves away from rigid gradings to individual "market-related" salary bands for each job title. In some cases, salary scales have been abandoned in favour of individual market-linked "spot salaries."

As an alternative to restructuring, some organizations are paying market supplements or proficiency allowances of up to £2,000 a year on top of basic salary.

IDS says that in a survey last year, Computer Economics Ltd found labour turnover country was highest among programming staff in outer London: the annual turnover rate for programmers was 26.2 per cent.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Welcome awaits any investment stimulus

The acceleration in pay has tweaked all sorts of nerves sensitive to old injuries on this front. Last week's news that average earnings had accelerated from an underlying increase of 8 1/2 per cent in the year to November to 8 1/2 per cent in the year to December was regarded in financial markets as far more significant than the record increase in bank lending. Perhaps this is what the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, meant when he said recently that the old debate between Keynesianism and monetarism was becoming increasingly dated.

Before allowing a sense of *déjà vu* to overcome us, it is worth recalling the differences between now and then. Even allowing for the Ford strike and other recent disturbances, the number of working days lost in January and February this year is not likely to be much higher than last year. Taken as a whole, the number of days lost in 1987 was lower than in any year of the 1970s. If the mercifully short strike at Ford is a symptom of the "British disease," it seems a good deal less virulent than the German variety which in 1984 paralysed the German car industry for more than three times as long.

Nevertheless, the acceleration in earnings cannot be ignored. In the economy as a whole, earnings growth is now 1 percentage point higher than the 7 1/2 per cent level at which it remained for several years until the second quarter of last year. Earnings growth in manufacturing has also picked up to 8 1/4 per cent, though this series is considerably more volatile.

Whether markets are right to be alarmed about these pay trends depends to a large extent on productivity. There is nothing wrong with pay increases which are earned through higher output. And, for most of last year, productivity was growing sufficiently rapidly to restrict the rise in unit costs to low levels.

There has been a lengthy and unresolved debate about how far the rise in productivity is simply a reflection of last year's buoyant demand and how far it reflects an underlying improvement in industry's efficiency. What is clear, is that with

the economy likely to grow rather more slowly this year than last, further improvement in productivity will depend mainly on industry's own efforts to achieve it.

The rate of investment will be crucial to this effort. Britain is still a relatively low investing economy. According to the European Commission, investment in this country during the 1980s has crept up from 16 to 17 per cent of national income, but it is still below both the US at 18 per cent and the EEC average of 19 per cent. Japan is in a different league from the rest of the developed world, investing 27 per cent of its national income (down from 30 per cent at the beginning of the decade).

As many a study from the National Economic Development Office has pointed out over the years, quality of investment is just as important as quantity. The emphasis by the present Government in trying to improve the supply side of the economy has tended to be more on making the best use of existing investment than on increasing it. But quantity cannot be ignored.

Michael Devereux, in the latest edition of *Fiscal Studies*, published today, contends that Mr Lawson's 1984 reform of corporation tax has led to a moderate disincentive to invest compared with the pre-1984 system. Whatever the present position, the potential effect of tax changes on investment was vividly demonstrated in the transitional period of the reform when investment allowances were still available but companies knew that the profits from investment would be taxed in future years at a lower rate. This produced a strong incentive to invest which was duly reflected in a high level of capital spending during 1984 and 1985.

Doubtless, it would be going a good deal too far to ascribe Britain's supply side "miracle" of the late 1980s to the transitional effects of the 1984 tax reform. But any further stimulus to investment will be welcome. In a Budget whose main focus will be the reform of personal taxation, it would be desirable at least for the Chancellor to indicate his aspirations for company taxation in the future.

Public spending priorities

Wednesday's House of Commons debate on the Public Expenditure White Paper provides an opportunity to consider government spending plans as a whole. No doubt it will attract only a tenth of the number of MPs anxious to debate individual programmes like health or education or defence. Yet it is in balancing priorities that a government is really to be judged.

Last week Henry Neuberger, adviser to Labour's industry spokesman Bryan Gould, described his approach to the planning of public spending at a seminar of the Public Finance Foundation. In an ideal world, according to Mr Neuberger, one would set targets not in terms of money but in terms of outputs such as avoidance of infant mortality or perhaps exam passes at GCSE.

The implications of these would then be calculated for a range of different budgets including not only that of the relevant department but also any other departmental programmes which might effect the outcome. The implied increases would then have to be fitted into a total spending target by a winnowing process to determine the most efficient way of getting as close to as many targets as possible.

As Mr Neuberger admitted, this all sounds a bit utopian. It also sounds like a recipe for a massive increase in spending as every department receives a political lever in the shape of output targets to extract more money than the taxpayer (though that might not matter to Mr Neuberger, who thinks spending is too low anyway). Nevertheless any debate worthy of the name should start by acknowledging that choices have to be made and then go on to examine the way in which they actually are made.

Changes in spending on one programme often have an important effect on the objectives of other programmes which are rarely acknowledged. Road improvements, for instance, may benefit a wide range of other programmes including industry, defence, health and law and order, yet this is never counted as part of expenditure on those programmes. A debate which explores some of the connections between the different areas of the government spending plan would be a lot more interesting than the usual combination of ritual haranguing on the Health Service and esoteric points made by the House's handful of expenditure buff.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Ashley seeks £75m facility

Laura Ashley Holdings has appointed Midland Montagu to arrange a £75 million multi-purpose facility, which will have a committed element of £50 million. The facility will be for five years and will carry a margin of 0.125 per cent per annum and a facility fee of 0.075 per cent per annum.

Scotch and gin lead fall in spirits sales

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Scotch whisky and gin are the worst-hit products in a spirits market which, the Wine and Spirit Association believes, went into decline last year.

In the 12 months to the end of last September, the spirits market was still showing a fractional gain of 0.3 per cent, but this was largely influenced by a surge in demand for liqueurs and specialty drinks.

Mr Nick Gent, the chairman of the association, said: "This is a volatile sector, very much subject to fashion tastes."

It would be unwise to anticipate this sudden apparent growth to be sustained.

With whisky and gin accounting for three in every five bottles of spirits sold, their fortunes will mostly dictate the pattern for the spirits market as a whole.

Judged on moving annual totals for the 12 months to end-September, Scotch had a sales decline of 3.4 per cent while gin was down 2.4 per cent. But other spirits produced in Britain, mostly vodka,

were still rallying, having increased by 4.3 per cent. In the third quarter, Scotch showed some improvement, registering a 10 per cent rise, while gin slid nearly 4 per cent.

Both cognac and other brandies were up by close to 4 per cent over 12 months, while rum rose by 1.4 per cent. Other imported spirits, including liqueurs, were up by 15.4 per cent on a 12-month comparison, but much of the movement had occurred in the third quarter when this

sector jumped by 47 per cent.

In the first three quarters of last year, all spirits sales slid marginally by 0.2 per cent.

This faltering in the spirits sector has come as sales of

table wines, together with sparkling wines, have continued to grow. In a plea on spirits taxation in next month's Budget, Mr. Gent said: "The spirits market is running as fast as it can just to hold sales at current levels. If the taxes do not come down, then the market surely will."

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY—Interim: Bangkok Investment, FII Group (amended), Kwaku, George H. Scholes, Finales: ASEA, Grams Rintool Investment Trust, Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, Temple Bar Investment Trust, Vickers.

TOMORROW—Interim: Baldwin, Murray Income Tst, Scottish, English and European Textiles, Finales: Baltic Capital & Counties, Continental & Industrial Tst, En-

ergy Capital, First Scottish American Tst, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, Leslie Wise, Alfred McAlpine, Metal Bulletin, Murray Int Tst, National Westminster Bank, Newage Transmissions, Owners Abroad, Provident Financial, SBCI Savory Millin, Tyndall.

WEDNESDAY—Interim: Burford, Dale Electric, Elec Hanson, Herburger Brooks, Finales: AAF Inv, Barclays Bank, BPP, Fairway (London), Royal Insurance, Taverners, Updown Investments Co, Wates City of London Properties.

THURSDAY—Interim: Bracken Mines, British Telecom, Bryant Group, Isotom, Kinross Mines, Leslie Gold Mines, Tor Investment Trust, Unisel Gold Mines, Winkels, Finales: Akiel, bolaget SKF, ICI, Philips.

FRIDAY—Interim: DPCE Holdings, Goodwin, Henderson Prime Residential Property, Offshore Fund, Finales: Bullie Gifford Ship Nippon, Lloyds Bank, March Group, Ruo Estates Holdings, Sedgwick Group.

Hong Kong listing rush

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange is facing a flood of at least 41 listing applications as it enters the Year of the Dragon—almost double the number in all of 1987.

The Hong Kong market was the worst hit in last year's market crash, with the Hang Seng index diving from a high of 3,949.7 to a 1987 low of 1,894.9. The Cantonese for "easy life, easy money" and is regarded as very lucky.

When the Crown Colony's exchange closed on Tuesday to begin new year celebrations the index stood at 2,328, up nearly 23 per cent since its low on December 7.

Carol Leonard

Scots fill gap in the markets

By A Correspondent

Edinburgh's most infamous gap—the "hole in the ground" in the otherwise imposing Castle Terrace—will become the city's new financial centre. So in future the name Charlotte Square might no longer be synonymous with Edinburgh's financial community.

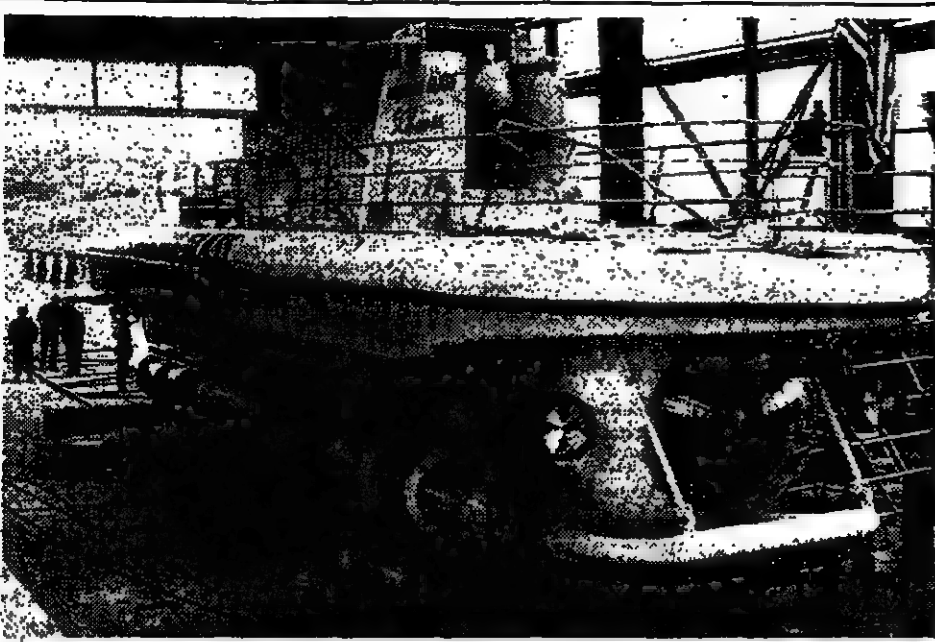
The Castle Terrace site has lain empty for 20 years. Last year Edinburgh District Council asked for development ideas.

A plan by Scottish Metropolitan Property and the Edinburgh financier, Noble & Company, was eventually accepted. It will provide a nerve centre for Edinburgh's growing financial community, which now employs more than 85,000 people and is running out of office space. In Europe, Edinburgh is second only to London for the number of financial institutions with headquarters there.

The new centre will provide 130,000 square feet of modern office accommodation. It will have conference and meeting facilities, teleconferencing, video and broadcasting studios, room for stock market or currency dealings, a financial library and museum, continued displays of up-to-date stock market information, and galleries to watch dealings.

There will also be restaurants and bars, a fitness centre, a theatre and a link to the Union Concert Hall.

If planning applications and ground leases are satisfactorily completed, building should start next year.



Sea escape: one of Fluid Energy's porthole-lined submarines on the slipway

Submarine company takes the plunge into tourism

By Colin Narborough

Fluid Energy, a Scottish firm that started out designing leisure submarines for a Finnish shipyard, is now manufacturing them, and its first "porthole submarine" is about to go into service in the US Virgin Islands.

As soon as the US authorities approve, the porthole-lined, 19.5-metre LC50 will be taking 48 passengers and a crew of two on sea-floor tours of between 45 minutes and an hour. The price of a ticket: \$40-\$50 (£22-£28).

Fluid Energy's business development manager, Mr David Mayo, says that is a fair

price, given that Submarine Tours of St Thomas, the owners, paid about £1.5 million for the vessel.

The sub-builder, based at Inverkeithing on the Forth, had seen the North Sea market for manned submarines dry up with the advent of remote-controlled craft. The market it identified was an underwater bus for the well-heeled traveller who has seen everything there is to see above the waterline.

Lavretskilines, the Finnish shipyard, built the first of the Fluid Energy designs under licence last year.

But subsequently, with the

evident demand for leisure sales, the Scottish venture decided to start its own vessel assembly, with work carried out by sub-contractors.

The move appears to be paying dividends. Annual turnover, from royalties from the Finales and submarine sales, is running at about £3 million. Staff has been increased from 10 to 50.

A second vessel is to be handed over in April to Looking Glass Cruises of Bermuda and a Middle East order is in the offing.

But murky British waters are unlikely to see such undersea tourism in the near future.

R&D costs rules to be changed

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Companies will have to declare their spending on research and development under new accountability rules to be introduced by the Accounting Standards Committee by the end of this year.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, announced the committee's decision at a conference on the exploitation of science and technology, organized by the Bow Group of the Conservative Party.

The Government, which had been considering intro-

ducing legislation forcing disclosure of spending on research and development, strongly supported the move, said Mr Clarke.

"I find the general reluctance to do so quite astonishing, and another example of the low level of awareness of the importance of technology," he said.

The ASC canvassed companies last autumn to gauge reaction to the proposals, which revealed that concern over disclosure centred on

what constituted research and development.

The distinction, about which there has been much debate over the last few years, is important because of the need to compare like with like between companies, some of the survey's respondents said.

To cut through the controversy, the ASC is to use the same Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development definitions of research and development that are currently built into its

guidelines on how to deal with R&D spending in company accounts, whether disclosed or not.

Under these rules, both pure and applied research has to be set against profit, while development work can be entered on balance sheets as an asset.

Following suggestions from a number of companies, R&D work which is not purely scientific, such as the development of financial models, will also be included under the new guidelines.

Farewell from Sir Charles

Few men have bridged the worlds of literature and high finance as successfully as Sir Charles Troughton, who will be retiring next month as one of the six independent non-executive directors of The Times. Sir Charles, aged 71—and known to his friends, for some strange reason, as Dick—will be standing down after the company's adjourned annual meeting on March 8, nine months before he would have been due for re-election. "I've been on the board for five years and it has been one of the most interesting things I've ever done," he tells me from his Scottish holiday home, "but if I ever had any useful purpose, I have now served it." He is modest to the point of being self-effacing and you will only learn from the likes of *Who's Who* that he survived five years as a prisoner of war, before qualifying as a barrister and becoming a director of myriad companies—ranging from WH Smith, where he was chairman until 1977, and William Collins, where he is still deputy chairman, to Barclays Bank International, Electric & General Investment and the charitable British Kidney Patient Association Investment Trust. Still serving as president of the British Council and with one or two other directorships "to keep the wolf from the door," he admits that he might now try his hand at writing a book. What will it be? An autobiography? "No, that would be a cure for insomnia," he says.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Generous analysis

The annual dinner of the Society of Investment Analysts at the Grosvenor House Hotel last week may have been a little more sober than usual but it was not completely devoid of high spirits. The talk of the City ever since has been a so-called head-buttling incident in the Smith New Court hospital suite with Allied Dunbar fund manager James Fullford being the victim. Fullford was, however, keen to

play down the incident. Speaking about the BZW employee "accident," Fullford told me: "He is an old friend of mine and it was just high spirits, blown up out of all proportions. We slapped each other around the shoulders a couple of times and now people are making it sound as if we were rolling round in a gladiatorial ring." Methinks BZW owes the gracious Mr Fullford a crate of champagne.

No big deal-er

It is a fact that market-makers take up less space in the office than their analytical brethren. The average office space per employee within the Square

Mile has risen from 85 sq ft to 120 sq ft as more firms move to modern computer-friendly tower blocks. But the average square footage for those on the dealing floor is, I am assured, still languishing at just 75.

● Latest City joke. First the good news: the Ford strike has been called off. Now the bad news: Hoare Govett did the counting.

Bearing down

Having watched the Kuwaitis buy heavily into BP recently seems to have set the Russians thinking about taking a stake in successful British companies. Ernst & Whinney, the accountancy and business services firm, tells me it had a call last week from none other than the Soviet Trade Mission, seeking an opinion on whether Soviet capital would be as welcome as any other sovereign investor. I believe the answer was a diplomatic "theoretically, yes."



"We've decided to stick a few accessories on to our latest models—like a couple of hundred pounds!"

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page. Only add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or weekly dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Share Price | Dividend |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | AIM | Industrial A-D | 132 | 2.5 |
| 2 | Scania | Automotive | 132 | 2.5 |
| 3 | SPT | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 4 | Smith (Jef) | Paper/Print/Adv | 132 | 2.5 |
| 5 | Electronic Mach | Electronics | 132 | 2.5 |
| 6 | Logica | Electronics | 132 | 2.5 |
| 7 | Lynco Prop | Property | 132 | 2.5 |
| 8 | Ampol | Oil/Gas | 132 | 2.5 |
| 9 | LDH | Industrial L-R | 132 | 2.5 |
| 10 | Bejam | Food | 132 | 2.5 |
| 11 | General Motor | Automotive | 132 | 2.5 |
| 12 | AGB Research | Industrial A-D | 132 | 2.5 |
| 13 | Metall Chem | Industrial L-R | 132 | 2.5 |
| 14 | IVS | Chemicals | 132 | 2.5 |
| 15 | Wesco | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 16 | Macdonald | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 17 | Tate & Lyle | Food | 132 | 2.5 |
| 18 | Decca | Property | 132 | 2.5 |
| 19 | Glaxo (M) | Pharmaceutical | 132 | 2.5 |
| 20 | Tricore | Automotive | 132 | 2.5 |
| 21 | Bechtel | Engineering | 132 | 2.5 |
| 22 | Ernst & Young | Accountancy | 132 | 2.5 |
| 23 | Finer (H) | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 24 | Spina-Sano | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 25 | Brook PLC | Building/Trade | 132 | 2.5 |
| 26 | Wolfrum & D | Electronics | 132 | 2.5 |
| 27 | STC (a) | Electronics | 132 | 2.5 |
| 28 | Dover | Automotive | 132 | 2.5 |
| 29 | Barclay & Doherty | Food | 132 | 2.5 |
| 30 | AB Elect | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 31 | Decca | Property | 132 | 2.5 |
| 32 | Bank (S) | Industrial S-Z | 132 | 2.5 |
| 33 | Wilson (Com) | Building/Trade | 132 | 2.5 |
| 34 | Hickson | Chemicals | 132 | 2.5 |
| 35 | Norden & Peacock | Food | 132 | 2.5 |
| 36 | Boles | Food | 132 | 2.5 |
| 37 | Canon St | Industrial A-D | 132 | 2.5 |
| 38 | Dynal Packaging | Paper/Print/Adv | 132 | 2.5 |
| 39 | Tarmac (a) | Building/Trade | 132 | 2.5 |
| 40 | Grand Met (a) | Hotel/Catering | 132 | 2.5 |
| 41 | Lopex | Paper/Print/Adv | 132 | 2.5 |
| 42 | Birmingham Mint | Industrial A-D | 132 | 2.5 |
| 43 | Broken Hill | Industrial A-D | 132 | 2.5 |
| 44 | Black | Electronics | 132 | 2.5 |

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| MIN | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | TOTAL |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | | | | | | |

BRITISH FUNDS

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

UNDATED

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

INDEX-LINKED

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| Stock | Price | Change | Div | Yield |
|----------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| FTSE 100 | 132 | 2.5 | | |

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end March 4. Settlement day March 14.
*Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

| Company | Price | Change | Div | Yield | P/E |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| 1. AIM | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 2. Scania | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 3. SPT | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 4. Smith (Jef) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 5. Electronic Mach | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 6. Logica | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 7. Lynco Prop | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 8. Ampol | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 9. LDH | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 10. Bejam | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 11. General Motor | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 12. AGB Research | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 13. Metall Chem | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 14. IVS | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 15. Wesco | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 16. Macdonald | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 17. Tate & Lyle | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 18. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 19. Glaxo (M) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 20. Tricore | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 21. Bechtel | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 22. Ernst & Young | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 23. Finer (H) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 24. Spina-Sano | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 25. Brook PLC | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 26. Wolfrum & D | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 27. STC (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 28. Dover | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 29. Barclay & Doherty | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 30. AB Elect | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 31. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 32. Bank (S) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 33. Wilson (Com) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 34. Hickson | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 35. Norden & Peacock | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 36. Boles | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 37. Canon St | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 38. Dynal Packaging | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 39. Tarmac (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 40. Grand Met (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 41. Lopex | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 42. Birmingham Mint | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 43. Broken Hill | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 44. Black | 132 | 2.5 | | | |

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
Claims required for 52 points
ACCUMULATOR £68,000
Claims better than 52 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53772

OVERSEAS TRADERS

| Company | Price | Change | Div | Yield | P/E |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| 1. AIM | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 2. Scania | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 3. SPT | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 4. Smith (Jef) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 5. Electronic Mach | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 6. Logica | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 7. Lynco Prop | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 8. Ampol | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 9. LDH | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 10. Bejam | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 11. General Motor | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 12. AGB Research | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 13. Metall Chem | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 14. IVS | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 15. Wesco | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 16. Macdonald | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 17. Tate & Lyle | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 18. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 19. Glaxo (M) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 20. Tricore | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 21. Bechtel | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 22. Ernst & Young | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 23. Finer (H) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 24. Spina-Sano | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 25. Brook PLC | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 26. Wolfrum & D | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 27. STC (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 28. Dover | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 29. Barclay & Doherty | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 30. AB Elect | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 31. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 32. Bank (S) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 33. Wilson (Com) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 34. Hickson | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 35. Norden & Peacock | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 36. Boles | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 37. Canon St | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 38. Dynal Packaging | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 39. Tarmac (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 40. Grand Met (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 41. Lopex | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 42. Birmingham Mint | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 43. Broken Hill | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 44. Black | 132 | 2.5 | | | |

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

| Company | Price | Change | Div | Yield | P/E |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| 1. AIM | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 2. Scania | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 3. SPT | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 4. Smith (Jef) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 5. Electronic Mach | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 6. Logica | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 7. Lynco Prop | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 8. Ampol | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 9. LDH | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 10. Bejam | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 11. General Motor | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 12. AGB Research | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 13. Metall Chem | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 14. IVS | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 15. Wesco | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 16. Macdonald | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 17. Tate & Lyle | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 18. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 19. Glaxo (M) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 20. Tricore | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 21. Bechtel | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 22. Ernst & Young | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 23. Finer (H) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 24. Spina-Sano | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 25. Brook PLC | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 26. Wolfrum & D | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 27. STC (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 28. Dover | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 29. Barclay & Doherty | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 30. AB Elect | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 31. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 32. Bank (S) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 33. Wilson (Com) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 34. Hickson | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 35. Norden & Peacock | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 36. Boles | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 37. Canon St | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 38. Dynal Packaging | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 39. Tarmac (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 40. Grand Met (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 41. Lopex | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 42. Birmingham Mint | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 43. Broken Hill | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 44. Black | 132 | 2.5 | | | |

PROPERTY

| Company | Price | Change | Div | Yield | P/E |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| 1. AIM | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 2. Scania | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 3. SPT | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 4. Smith (Jef) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 5. Electronic Mach | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 6. Logica | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 7. Lynco Prop | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 8. Ampol | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 9. LDH | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 10. Bejam | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 11. General Motor | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 12. AGB Research | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 13. Metall Chem | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 14. IVS | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 15. Wesco | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 16. Macdonald | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 17. Tate & Lyle | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 18. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 19. Glaxo (M) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 20. Tricore | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 21. Bechtel | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 22. Ernst & Young | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 23. Finer (H) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 24. Spina-Sano | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 25. Brook PLC | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 26. Wolfrum & D | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 27. STC (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 28. Dover | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 29. Barclay & Doherty | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 30. AB Elect | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 31. Decca | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 32. Bank (S) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 33. Wilson (Com) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 34. Hickson | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 35. Norden & Peacock | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 36. Boles | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 37. Canon St | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 38. Dynal Packaging | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 39. Tarmac (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 40. Grand Met (a) | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 41. Lopex | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 42. Birmingham Mint | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 43. Broken Hill | 132 | 2.5 | | | |
| 44. Black | 132 | 2.5 | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 552.00 | Smith (Jef) | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Electronic Mach | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Logica | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Lynco Prop | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Ampol | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | LDH | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Bejam | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | General Motor | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | AGB Research | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Metall Chem | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | IVS | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Wesco | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Macdonald | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Tate & Lyle | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Decca | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Glaxo (M) | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Tricore | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Bechtel | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Ernst & Young | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Finer (H) | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |
| 552.00 | Spina-Sano | 176 | + | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8.1 |

OPENCAST COAL

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Battle for pits of the future

Sir Kenneth Couzens, chairman of the Opencast Executive (OCE), says the Government must show that it wants opencast coal mining to survive in the national interest — or it could fade away. He was responding to what his officials see as "catastrophic" figures showing that environmentalists and planners have combined to oppose the development of opencast sites.

From April to December last year the OCE applied to develop sites containing nine million tonnes of coal. They got approval for only one million tonnes — a 12 per cent success rate. As a result of public inquiries, the success rate in "longage" terms approved is now 25 per cent.

Sir Kenneth and his colleagues point out that to expand production to 16 million tonnes a year, the OCE needs an approval rate of between 70 and 80 per cent.

The rejection rate figures are in sharp contrast to the situation before 1984 when the OCE applied directly to the Department of Energy. Then the approval rate was around 95 per cent.

Far from expanding the industry as Sir Kenneth would like, he fears the continuation of the present trend will cut drastically the amount of opencast coal being mined (see tables, page 4). He estimates that if annual production fell to seven million tonnes, the loss in profit to British Coal would be £180 million a year, and the number of jobs would drop from 15,000 to 6,000.

Sir Kenneth admits to being worried by the trend and wants the Department of the Environment to relax the rules under which opencast applications are made. He said local councillors had a vested interest in rejecting applications; but when the matter reaches the public inquiry stage the Government could make its views clear by a more sympathetic approach. The minister has the final say on inspectors' recommendations.

The OCE's problem stems from social changes and attitudes to environmental protection that emerged in the 1970s and more powerful, organized opposition such as that of the Coalfield Communities Campaign.

By world standards, opencast mines in Britain are small. Typical annual production is 300,000 tonnes and the average life of an opencast pit is five years. But one of the OCE's big problems is that, by definition, opencast mines are in areas of traditional high industrial activity — possibly generated in the first place by

Government must show it wants opencast to survive

the presence of a deep mine — meaning a large population.

With 20 per cent of mines being exhausted every year, 10 new opencast mines have to be brought on stream annually just to stand still in total output terms. And expansion means between 15 and 20 have to be developed. This means local opposition is being stirred up all the time, not just once in 10 years.

The Coalfield Communities Campaign consists of 78 local authorities of all political shades in coalfield areas and is a fierce opponent of opencast mining for several reasons.

In 1984, the Flowers Report recommended that opencast coal should lose its special status, and the system under which applications for new sites was changed. Under the new system, instead of applying to the Energy Secretary — who had been giving 95 per cent approval for all applications for new sites — the OCE must apply to local authorities. If the local authority rejected applications, the OCE has to appeal to the Environment Secretary, who can order a public inquiry.

Under these rules, inspec-

tors have to balance the need for the coal against the environmental impact.

Today local authorities are, more and more, deciding that the environmental impact outweighs the national need for the opencast coal. Sir Kenneth and his senior officials on the OCE are pinning their hopes on a current revision of Circular 384, which lays down the guidelines Environment Department inspectors have to consider when adjudicating in planning applications.

Both the OCE and local authorities have made recommendations and are awaiting the Government's decision on any possible changes to Circular 384.

Sir Kenneth hopes a much more "sensible" definition of the need for coal will be introduced. He and his colleagues want more emphasis on the economic benefits of low-cost opencast coal.

The residue of bitterness against British Coal following the 1984-85 miners' strike is also a big problem for the OCE. In almost all areas where it is applying to develop opencast sites, British Coal has recently closed pits. This makes it difficult politically for local authorities to approve coal production from an opencast site in their area when deep mine coal production has stopped close by.

The National Union of Mineworkers, which does not have members in opencast production as the employees in this sector are controlled by the transport workers' union, also opposes it, saying the opening of opencast mines means closing deep mines and losing NUM jobs.

Sir Kenneth commented: "It is not good enough to say that it is a matter of national indifference what happens to this industry. On a market test, opencast coal wipes the floor with anything. Because of its quality, our customers clamour for it. It is interventions by the planning people in local government which is



Looking for openings: left to right, Tony Palmer, director, Central East Region Opencast Executive; Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal and Sir Kenneth Couzens, chairman of the Opencast Executive. Above: Ray Proctor, managing director of the Opencast Executive, looks over the Godkin site in Derbyshire

in danger of killing it, not the market. That is the last thing that would kill it. If it is ever destroyed it will be an anti-market force that does it.

"The Coalfield Communities Campaign chooses to ignore the financial targets that are set by Government. Ideally, I suppose, if you cover the country from one end to the other with windmills we could do away with power stations. But if we are not allowed to expand, then we will have to import.

"Anyone who says that one more ton of opencast means one less ton of deep mined coal is dead wrong. The profits from OCE help the coal industry in this country from going into terminal decline.

"Mr Scargill argues on the principle that someone owes him, the miners and the rest of us a living. It is not true. It does not make sense under any circumstances to say, 'No, we do not want low-cost coal. We will have high-cost coal and send the bill to the

Government'. What nonsense. If I was to put that argument forward, they would say, 'What have we put you there for?'

"The only answer is to expand and make more profits to save the taxpayer from having to prop up the industry as a whole. I hope I will get support from the Government in that view."

John Spicer
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

Newcomer's role

Coal has always been so plentiful in Britain that opencast extraction is a relative newcomer, writes John Spicer. It began in 1942 as a short-term means of boosting wartime production. Curiously, when coal was nationalized in 1947, the National Coal Board refused to take on opencast production on the grounds that it was unprofitable.

But in 1952 the NCB decided it would take over opencast operations and the OCE was set up, almost as a private enterprise within a nationalized industry. The OCE does not extract coal, nor does it employ any miners. It finds "surface" coal — down to a depth of 150 metres — proves the reserves and applies for planning permission. The OCE then offers the work of extracting the coal to private companies by competitive tender.

Altogether, the business is worth about £400 million a year to the private sector. And as a result of the competition among 20 or more main contractors, the OCE is getting the work done at the lowest possible cost. When the OCE was set up the question was: Will it last? Before that time Britain was a one-fuel economy. Coal ran everything from power stations to railway trains, so it continued steadily producing about 12 million tonnes a year and looked set for a certain future.

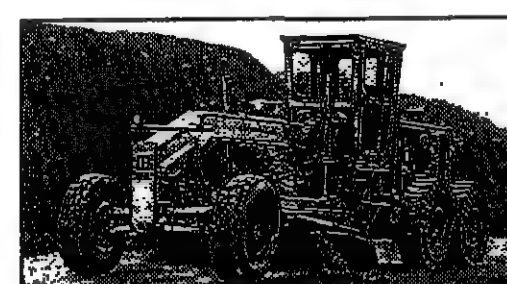
But in the 1960s Britain became a four-fuel economy — coal, natural gas, oil and nuclear — and the question came up again: Is opencast coal production here to stay? There was a contraction in the industry and production dropped to around six million tonnes a year.

Then in 1973 came the Arab-Israeli war, the price of oil quadrupled and the industrialized nations realized they had to look again at indigenous fuel supplies. The following year the NCB's *Plan for Coal* was published. It said there was a role for opencast and quantified it at 15 million tonnes a year. For the first time opencast mining appeared to have been given a long-term role in Britain's energy sector.

FINNING

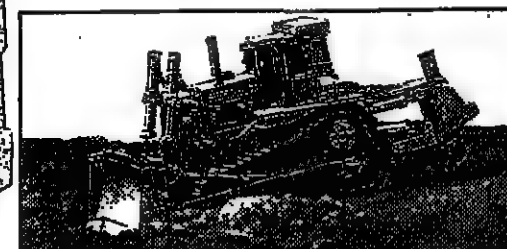


HAVE YOU TALKED TO FINNING LATELY ABOUT YOUR CATERPILLAR MINING EQUIPMENT NEEDS? IF NOT, YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD ABOUT FINNING MINING SUPPORT, WHICH OFFERS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMMITMENT FROM DEALER TO USER.



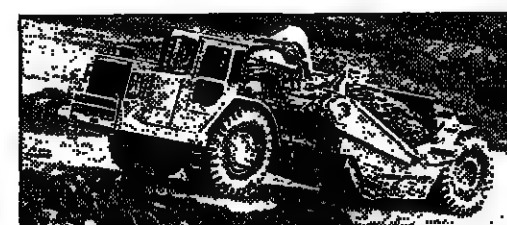
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COMPUTERISED MACHINE SELECTION PROGRAMMES.
MINING SPECIALISTS TO ADVISE ON LOADING SYSTEMS AND RIPPING TECHNIQUES, TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS.
FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFERING PURCHASE, LEASE AND RENTAL OPTIONS.



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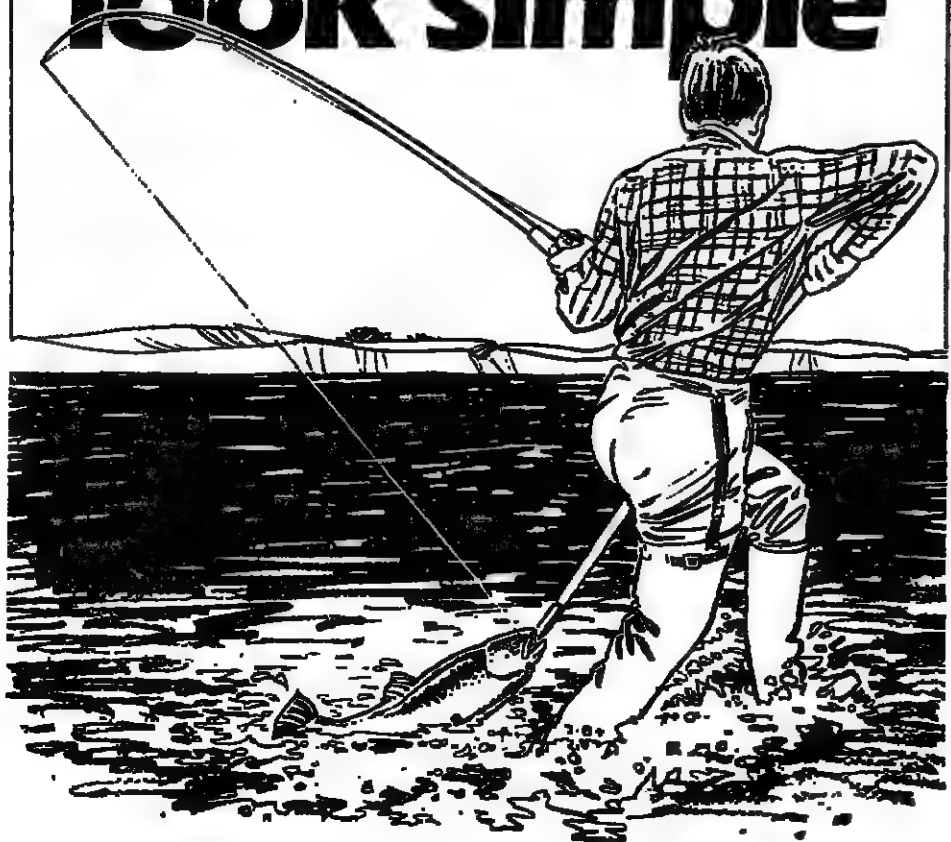
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OPENCAST COAL/2

FOCUS

Betting on a heavyweight

Opencast coal has reduced its operating costs while the product's retail price, writes John Spicer, has increased

By any standards, opencast coal mining is a big and highly profitable business. Last year, its operating profit was £203 million on a turnover of £500 million.

Ray Proctor, managing director of the OCE, puts it simply: "For every pound we invest, we gain a clear profit of about 40p."

In 1981-82 opencast coal cost £28.6 per tonne to produce and was sold at £39.3 per tonne. Last year production costs had fallen to £26.8 a tonne, while the value of the coal had gone up to £45.4 per tonne.

By comparison, it costs £40.76 to produce a tonne of deep-mined coal, which sells for £41.25.

In real terms, with inflation taken into account, the retail price of opencast coal has increased in the past five years by 30 per cent, while costs of production have been reduced by 5 per cent. It is almost unique, Mr Proctor argues, to have a product that started off profitably and has actually increased its profitability. He claims that opencast mining is probably the most profitable business at the "heavy end" of British industry.

Last year opencast coal production was 12.5 million tonnes. By 1990, Mr Proctor would like that to be 16 million tonnes. He says that the only strategy possible with a product that is increasing in value, is becoming cheaper to produce and is better quality than deep-mined coal, is to expand.

There is no shortage of opencast reserves in Britain. At present, 39 million tonnes are being mined at existing sites. There are 37 million tonnes fully proved and currently going through the planning system to enable them to be next in line for production and there are another 250 million tonnes partly proved. Altogether more than 300 million tonnes are in reserve.

Mr Proctor outlines the benefits of expansion. First, the nation gets low-cost energy. Some of the opencast coal being produced is competitive in price with natural gas and oil from the North Sea. "It would be crazy to turn your back on that sort of

The importance of the British Coal opencast business to the UK civil-engineering industry cannot be over-estimated, writes David Young. At times of recession in Government and local authority building programmes, the coal industry has provided the continuity of work that has kept thousands employed and created the funds for investment in new plant and machinery.

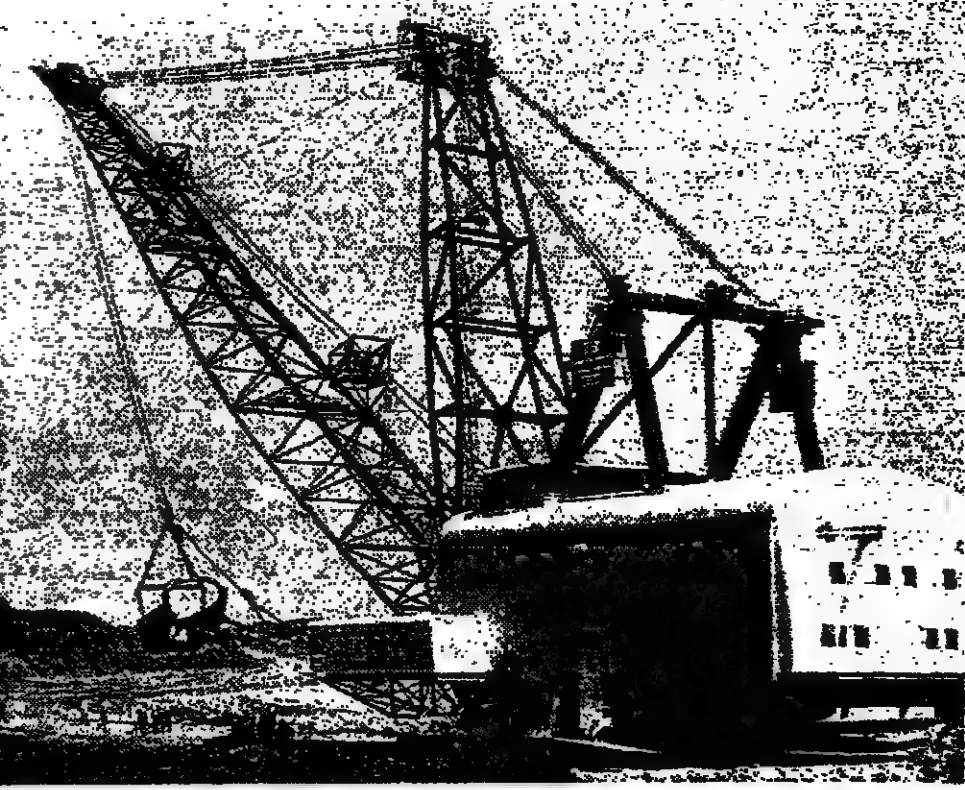
The international flavour of the industry is also demonstrated by the involvement of the major civil engineering groups, who are involved in many overseas opencast projects. Among them is Ryan International, a Welsh-based company which has mining operations in the UK, Belgium and the United States, owning the Derek Crouch operation in the UK.

Opencast coal is produced under contract from British Coal at four sites by Derek Crouch Contractors, two in Ayrshire, one in Northumberland and one in North Staffordshire. The contracts in Derbyshire have been particularly significant to British Coal and to the

indigenous resource," he says.

Secondly, he argues, the strategy of expansion is creating employment and it is creating wealth — and it is doing these things in some of the hardest-hit areas of the country. A site recently opened in Wales provided 100 jobs and 2,000 men applied for them. Mr Proctor says the industry provides 8,000 direct jobs and 7,000 indirectly.

Thirdly, the OCE claims that its operations provide environmental benefits. Even Mr Proctor admits such a claim may sound incongruous in the light of sustained objec-



Big Geordie, Britain's biggest walking dragline. Operated by two men, it can lift more than 50 tons of material at one go

A big job for Big Geordie

Electricity prices in Northern Ireland. In Ulster power is produced from coal stations with the local grid not having the advantage of being connected to the mainland national grid, which can take power from coal, nuclear, hydro and oil-fired stations.

Electricity prices in Northern Ireland have always been higher than on the mainland, but by having access to the coal produced in Ayrshire, supplies in the area can now be generated more economically.

The latest Crouch contract is on a site near Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Work will start in August this year and is scheduled for completion in 1994, when restoration of the site will start. The contract with British Coal is worth £31 million and three million tonnes of coal will be extracted from the site.

Another well-known name in the opencast coal contracting business is Taylor Woodrow. Taylor Woodrow is the operator at the country's biggest opencast mine at Baiterswell in Northumberland. It is on this site that Big Geordie, the largest walking dragline in Britain, operates. The machine, which can lift more than 50 tons of material at one go, is operated by only two men. It is owned by Derek Crouch and leased to British Coal, which in turn allows it to be operated by Taylor Woodrow.

It is part of more than over £50 million worth of equipment in the site and by the time operations are completed and work starts on the restoration programme, Taylor Woodrow will have excavated 12.6 million tonnes of coal with employment on the site totalling 650 jobs on site.

blended with the lower-quality deep-mine coal.

The OCE says that if this mixture is not available the deep-mine product is often unsaleable. This is particularly true in Staffordshire, where power station specifications can be met only by a mix of the two products.

The second support which opencast coal provides for the deep mine industry is financial. Nearly all the £200 million profit a year from the OCE goes either to support the temporary difficulties which can beset deep mines, or as capital expenditure for them.

Back to nature

One of the most effective ways of allaying the fears of a landowner about the effects of opencast mining on his property is to visit a site where opencast coal mining once took place. British Coal does not claim to produce a better field, once it has removed the coal, than previously existed, although there are some farmers who would be more than happy to see British Coal plan an operation on his land after seeing the improvements made to neighbouring poor quality agricultural land, writes David Young.

As opencast coal is normally extracted from comparatively bad-quality land, there are often benefits. Often small uneconomic farming units can be replaced by a larger unit which can be more viable today.

It is when opencast mining takes place on previously derelict land, such as on the site of old deep-mining operations, or, as in the West Midlands, the site of a closed and dis-

mantled steelworks, that improvements can be spectacular.

British Coal at an early stage in the industry ruled out completely using opencast coal sites for waste disposal sites, because such a move would lead to too many problems with rubbish dispersal, eventual surface settlement and the problem of methane generation.

The opencast industry took the view that the only ethical solution was to restore sites to as original a condition as possible.

Before the subsoil and topsoil is replaced, the surface of the over-burden is ripped up to remove any contamination caused by the grading machinery and any large stones are removed. Then the stored subsoil is replaced, normally in two layers and any large stones removed. The topsoil is then relaid by scraper and cultivated to remove any contamination.

In the North-East, where

some sites are in operation for up to 12 years and where the topsoil has been stored for such a time, more detailed research is being carried out with the Ministry of Agriculture and Newcastle University.

It is when the final layer of topsoil has been spread that the contract ends and the land enters its five-year restoration period. Many of the features that previously existed will be restored, small and even large streams which were diverted will be reinstated with any appropriate and erosion measures introduced, hedges and fences rebuilt and trees planted.

Now that British Coal has proved that it can restore sites to a high level, it is attracting attention from coal-producers in other countries wanting to learn the same techniques. British Coal is spending £250,000 a year in supporting research at colleges and universities into how restoration techniques can be improved.

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OPENCAST COAL/3

FOCUS

The drill or fill dilemma

There is more to coal mining in Britain, writes David Young, than simply extracting it from a known deposit.

The layers of coal lying below towns and fields throughout Britain are well enough known to geologists. Using this extensive knowledge, British Coal's Opencast Executive is able to identify the areas from where it will be able to win Britain's cheapest source of energy in the coming years.

But much exploration work still needs to be done since the geologists move to an area, they must first close beneath the surface — close in opencast terms now means as deep as 700ft.

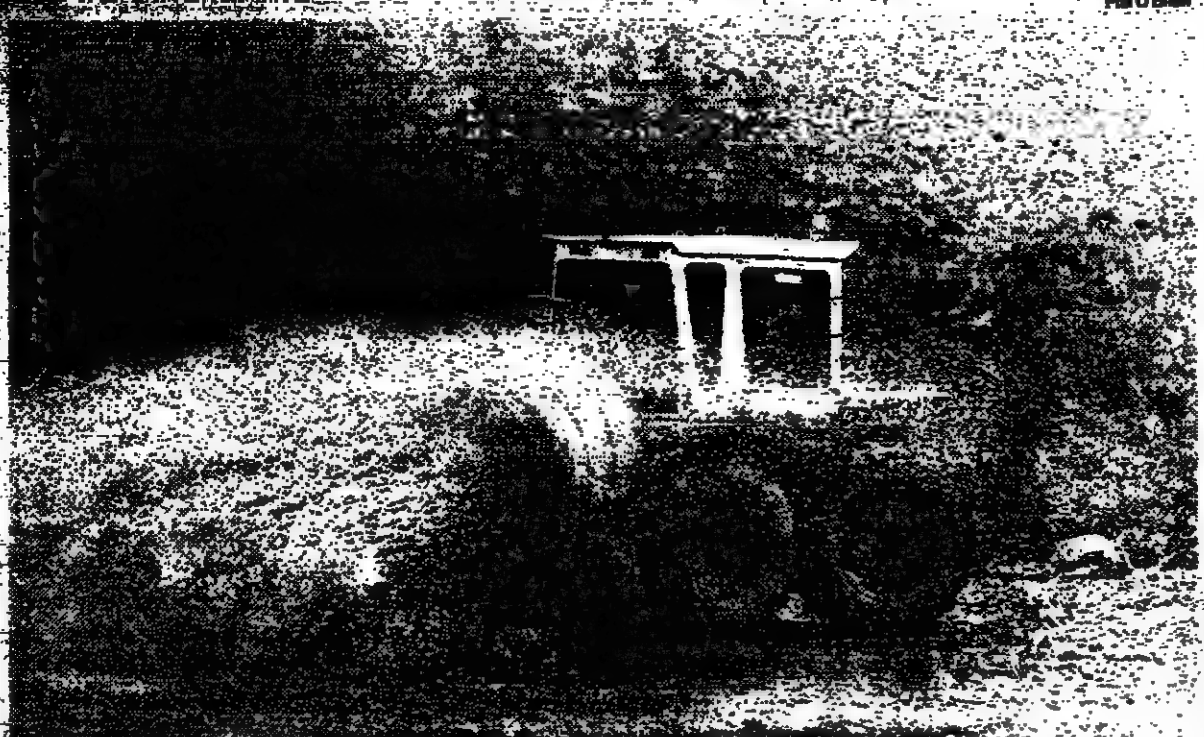
Before the geologist can be sure that a coalfield can be economically developed, the precise nature of the coal seams below the surface and how far they extend need to be known. To do this, the geologists bring in drilling rigs and drill a series of boreholes often at 60-metre intervals to make sure that initial discoveries of coal seams cover a wide enough area to make opencast mining viable. At this point the OCE will also start to determine the eventual markets into which the coal discovered could be sold.

The geological plans drawn up show the area and the cross-sections showing the location of all boreholes, areas of seams to be worked, depths of excavation and approximate location of seam outcrops are prepared for every proposed site.

The information gleaned from the boreholes also shows the type of material that separates the coal seams — there can be as many as 11 different coal seams on most sites with some only inches deep and others yards thick — and this information is detailed on the schedules that provide an estimate of the actual amount and value of the coal that can be recovered.

The fact that Britain's coal lies mainly in areas where there has been traditional industrial development — after all, it was coal that created the industrial revolution and most of it was used close to where it was found — means there are few large tracts of open land that can be used for opencast operations.

Roads, railways, canals, sewers, water mains, gas mains and electricity lines all criss-cross the country and pass through coal-bearing areas. The opencast operators can move roads,



Spraying the dust: working at Godkin in Derbyshire

opened by British Coal to speed up this process. In this way the merits of different types of development can be considered and a highly accurate forecast of the type and value of the coal to be recovered is available for the detailed contract to be placed with the operator.

The OCE exploration team, led by Den Davies, the production director, and Eddie Anderson, the chief development officer, are often the first coal people on a site, and it is they who give the impression of the consideration and care for the environment that the industry takes.

Though drilling and geological work is carried out by contractors, British Coal has had a large say in the type of drilling equipment used. It has to be as quiet as possible and create as little dust as possible. Vehicles have tyres and weight distribution so that damage to the land is kept to a minimum. Drilling is also confined to daylight hours, though in any case the depths drilled to mean that most boreholes are completed within a day.

Most of the drilling is by rotary air flush equipment powered by sound-proofed compressors. Many boreholes

are terminated geophysically by slimline downhole sondes, which measure natural gamma radiation from the strata below the surface and radiation that comes from the sonde and is reflected by the different materials beneath the surface.

The information from downhole examinations is used in conjunction with core samples taken from about five per cent of boreholes and helps the geologist build up a picture of the coal seams below the surface.

The necessity for accurate geological information from the boreholes has increased as depths worked have increased. British Coal has helped one of its contractors to develop a driller-operated unit allowing the driller to geolog the hole as soon as drilling is completed. The information received is stored on tape for interpretation by the geologist.

However, the more normal practice is for a geolog unit to serve more than one drilling unit, with the geologist arriving on site once boreholes have been completed and lined to protect the sonde equipment.

More traditional geological surveying methods, such as seismic testing using a convoy of lorries fitted with hydraulic rams that send shock waves through the rock strata, and airborne radar have little useful application in opencast operations because they cannot provide the high resolution needed by the industry.

Environment and energy: seeking a happy balance

How BC tries to keep the peace



Den Davies, director of production, often he is the first person on a site

1980 a noise-monitoring programme was put into effect. Noise limits have since been agreed for individual sites and noise levels set for different times of the day.

An essential part of site planning is the measurement of ambient noise around the proposed boundary and for a period of no less than a year before work is due to start, noise levels are recorded and analysed at no fewer than eight points on the proposed boundary, with more surveys

being taken close to any schools, hospitals or homes in the area. This enables the planners to calculate a picture of existing sound levels so that once operations start the sound that actually comes from plant and equipment can be identified and dealt with.

In the early stages of an opencast site when all work is taking place at ground level, it is more difficult to identify which sound actually comes from workings, but before any plant is allowed on to a site, it must be properly silenced and all exhausts on equipment are checked for corrosion.

British Coal says that

though there are few complaints about noise, the average is about one a site a year. BC is continuing work with plant manufacturers to develop quieter equipment; the British Hydromechanics Research Association is investigating how noise from vehicle reversing warning signals can be reduced.

Under the Mines and Quarries legislation vehicles on opencast sites are required to have a siren sounding when reversing to warn workers in the area, but the frequency and pitch of these sirens often means they can be heard some distance away.

Experiments have taken place to replace them with bells, but it is more likely that a solution will be found by making changes to the frequency of the siren, so that they can be heard through the noise of other plant working on the site, but not carry far enough to disrupt the surrounding environment.

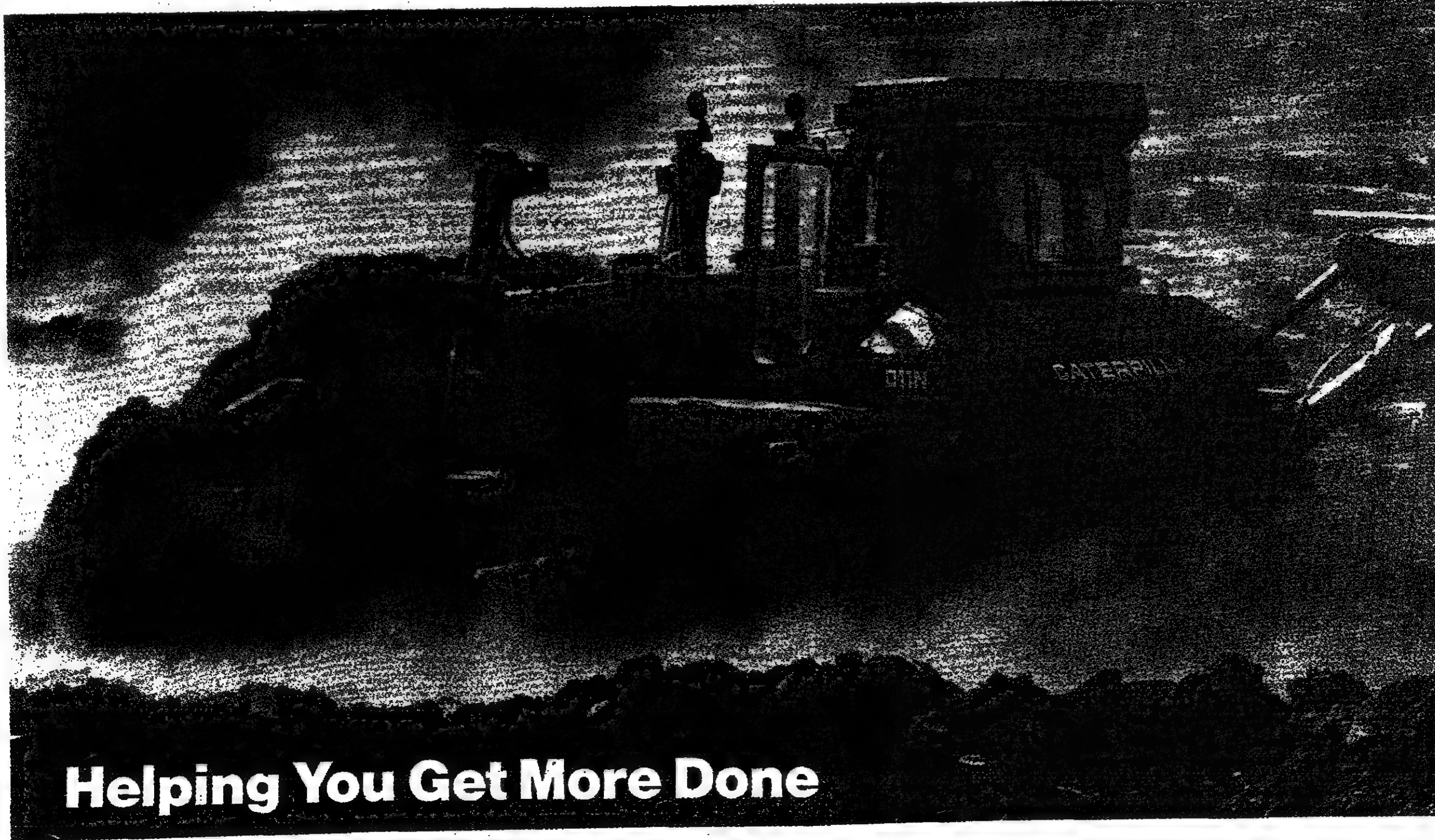
The first environmental line of defence is the surrounding embankment, which is five metres and made of the topsoil which is stripped from the site and stored for eventual restoration.

Another potential threat to the environment comes from the sound and vibrations of blasting. Depending on the thickness of layers of other material between the coal seams and the material they are made of, blasting often has to be employed to fragment the overburden before draglines can dig it clear.

BC has found that local people are not impressed by experts talking about peak particle velocity or scaled distances. They do not want verbal assurances that the level of vibration they experience will not damage their homes.

To allay their fears BC imposes a far tighter limit on blasting than the Government states in its construction legislation. A detailed blasting schedule is drawn up for each site and the contractor must submit a weekly blasting report.

Research also continues into dust suppression, although all drilling rigs and blasting operations are now virtually dust free and water jets are used to suppress dust when draglines are operating in very dry conditions.



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The simple fact is that Britain leads the world in opencast restoration techniques.

Not only is agricultural land brought back to life but derelict sites are reclaimed.

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FOCUS

OPENCAST COAL/ 4



Peter Cotgrove: "Profits make the deep-mining possible"

The OCE aims to make sure that its coal remains Britain's most economic source of energy by guaranteeing a market for it before it starts coming out of the ground. Even at the exploration stage when coal is first considered suitable for opencast mining the potential market is investigated. The distance from the power stations or industries that will use it is taken into account, the depth and distance between the seams carefully investigated and the type of material between the seams carefully analysed.

The type of coal itself is examined, for although most seams in the average field contain coal of the same type, there are many fields where seams vary in quality and it may be worth digging through some poorer quality seams - the coal from them can be blended with other coals - to win the higher-quality coals lying deeper.

The market for all the types that can be recovered is considered and often the coal is sold before digging starts. The detailed nature of the contracts placed for the recovery of opencast coal are the key to the economics and the high profitability of the operations.

A typical opencast site can require the removal of 20 tons of overburden for every ton of coal won, although last year that ratio was 16 to one, and the handling and storage of this overburden, rock,

soils, sand, gravel and clay can make the difference between profit and loss. It is in the contractors' best interests, therefore, that the contract between him and British Coal is as specific as possible and strikes the best balance between the extraction rates and the investment in plant and machinery.

British Coal ensures in two ways that this balance is struck. First, the contractor is required to submit a statement with his tender setting out the plant he proposes to use on a site and the method of working it. OCE civil engineers vet this statement and discuss it with the tendering contractors to make sure sufficient plant of the right type is available, and a schedule for plant is built into the contract to make any agreement on the type of used enforceable.

The second factor is that a large part of the contract value is for payment for coal actually won and delivered to the disposal centre. To make sure that coal is won as quickly as possible and that double handling of material is avoided the

The careful way to catch the market

contractor has to achieve these objectives by utilizing plant and machinery as skilfully as possible, and although the recent lower world coal price may have led to contractors submitting lower tenders for new contracts, they have been able to reduce their costs by more sophisticated detailed planning.

The OCE's use of contractors has enabled the industry to remain competitive and allow British Coal to use its profits to subsidize effectively some sectors of the deep-mined industry. Peter Cotgrove, the OCE's deputy managing director, said: "Those who say that opencast coalmining is a threat to the deep-mined industry totally misunderstand the position. It is because of the profits which opencast coal can provide that many developments in deep-mining can go ahead."

"Without the profits contributed by the opencast operations there would be more pit closures, not less as some people seem to think. The contracts placed by the OCE, in fact, impose a requirement on the contractors to employ where

possible former miners and local people and also to buy in supplies from local companies."

By requesting several tenders British Coal is assured that at least one firm is in a position to have labour and plant available. In addition, many of the contractors are part of large integrated civil engineering contracting companies and are able to spread the risk of investing in large plant over a period of years and over several extractive industries. This would be unavailable to British Coal.

In any case, British Coal is a long-term employer and offers high termination benefits that are unavailable to those who work on opencast contracts, often for periods of four years, and then find there is a gap before the next contract. The contracting system also means the individual contractors have many options on minimizing costs. He can lease, buy or hire plant, use direct or sub-contract labour and has access to various forms of financing, all of which help to keep costs down.

This flexibility keeps coal competitive and in turn provides a better return for the shareholders.

The use of heavy plant with increasingly larger capacities has enabled the contractors to increase constantly output per manshift. In fact, this figure was 9.6 tonnes in 1978-79 and rose to 13.5 in 1985-86, although the industry has benefited from the falls of the other areas of civil engineering, which has meant that new plant has been switched from non-existent road-building to the opencast industry.

The coal produced by opencast sites is readily marketed because it seldom needs to be washed. A British Coal employee at every site monitors quality, but the contractor is obliged to produce clean coal.

In addition, opencast coal is generally of higher quality than that produced in deep mines, as it is particularly low in chlorine. There are many examples of opencast coal being used to sweeten deep-mined coal before it can be used in power stations, the most notable being in Staffordshire.

Although all coal is marketed centrally by British Coal, there are many instances of opencast coal being the clinching element in winning or retaining a market. This factor also strengthens the British Coal assertion that the two industries are complementary not competitive.

David Young

Man and machine

The massive walking dragline, Big Georgie, owned by Ryan International, featured several times on television and an inspiration to generations of Meccano and Lego modellers, is the ultimate development of the techniques and equipment used in the opencast industry, writes David Young.

Its sheer size makes it suitable for Britain's largest opencast operation at Butterwell, Northumberland, which is now in the 10th year of its estimated 12-year life, and makes it possible to provide an energy source at prices that no other fuel can match.

Big Georgie, weighing almost 3,000 tonnes and capable of digging out 50 cubic metres at one go, is obviously too big to be used in most opencast sites, but the equipment used on most sites is equally impressive. The type of equipment used in the industry has not really changed in its short history, but it has become larger and

more reliable and because of that more cost-effective.

The techniques used by the contractors employed by British Coal are comparatively simple. It is the organization of men and machinery within an economic project plan that makes the industry so successful financially.

The contract issued by British Coal for every site states precisely how much coal should be extracted, how it should be done and what machinery should be used.

At its simplest, opencast mining is removing the top soil, storing it for later restoration, removing the clays, gravels and sands that cover the coal seams and then digging out the coal, taking it to a disposal site and then on to the waiting furnaces at the power stations and factories.

However, that disguises a complex operation that can involve removing several layers of different materials and the use of a fleet of highly specialized vehicles developed

to work in a temporary lunar landscape that is dry and dusty one day and covered in cloying mud the next.

The only constant thing is the coal, glistening black and much cleaner than that produced by deep mines.

After the preliminary work, the building of fences and access roads, the diversion of any gas, water or electricity lines through the site and the building of canteens and offices for the site workers, the machines move in.

Scrapers remove the top soil, which is stored for restoration and used for the building of the boundary embankment helping to limit the noise from the work. The soil is seeded and weeded so that it is kept in the best condition possible during its average four-year life as a boundary embankment. On a simple single-seam site, of which very few now exist, the stripping of the overburden by dragline is the most cost-effective method.

Many of the big draglines

| RESULTS FROM BRITISH COAL OPENCAST OPERATIONS | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | 81-82 | 82-83 | 83-84 | 84-85* | 85-86* | 86-87 (est) |
| Output (m tonnes) | 14.3 | 14.2 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 14.1 | 13.3 |
| Total profit (£m) | 157 | 182 | 211 | 142 | 343 | 243 |
| Profit/tonne (£) | 10.99 | 13.08 | 14.97 | 10.43 | 24.33 | 18.34 |

| OPENCAST OPERATIONS ('000 tonnes) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|----------|--------|
| DISPOSALS BY MARKET | | | | | | |
| | Total output | Total disposals | Electricity | Industrial | Domestic | Coking |
| 79-80 | 13013 | 13730 | 9842 | 1389 | 1255 | 352 |
| 80-81 | 15279 | 12472 | 9220 | 1061 | 786 | 222 |
| 81-82 | 14349 | 14589 | 10305 | 832 | 811 | 194 |
| 82-83 | 14701 | 14430 | 10570 | 1021 | 866 | 255 |
| 83-84 | 14983 | 14122 | 9843 | 1086 | 902 | 192 |
| 84-85* | 13565 | 8847 | 5061 | 1980 | 1034 | 281 |
| 85-86* | 14102 | 21124 | 17113 | 1376 | 1123 | 280 |

* Results affected by the miners' strike

Figures include opencast production in Scotland

are one-man-operated. The overburden is taken from one area and initially dumped away from the coal working area or subsequently into an area that has already had its coal removed. A dragline can do this without the overburden having to be loaded on to a dumper truck.

On many sites where there are several seams to be worked smaller hydraulic machines

are brought in as the coal seam is approached. Small is a relative term and some of these machines have buckets that can scoop up 24 cubic metres at a time.

It is on these multi-seam sites that the various site operations have to be planned meticulously to make sure that the draglines, mechanical shovels and massive dump trucks are kept working as

continuously as possible. In addition, the overburden removed from one area can be used to fill in areas from which the coal has already been removed so that handling costs are kept to a minimum.

British Coal has more than 50 large draglines working on its opencast operations, more than 70 large rope shovels, 70 large hydraulic shovels, and more than 20 large loading



Trucks like these can move 57 cu metres of earth at a time

shovels. It also has almost 600 large dump trucks that can handle up to 37 cubic metres of material at a time.

Once the coal is taken out, the overburden filled in and most of the heavy equipment moved on to another site,

another type of specialized vehicle trundles in. This vehicle has been developed by the opencast industry - most other equipment used is standard in the industry - and it ensures that the site is restored as fully as possible.

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SINCE 1930.

British built winners.

For every tonne of coal won from an open cast mine, there's around twenty tonnes of overburden to be moved first.

That's twenty tonnes of topsoil, subsoil, rock and rubble to be hauled away from the workface, preserved, and finally hauled back to reinstate and improve the original landscape.

Little wonder, then, that British Coal's sites have been worked for almost forty years by British-built Terex equipment supplied through distributors, Blackwood Hodge.

Only Terex trucks provide the combination of massive power, precision engineering and absolute reliability needed for working under the most demanding conditions - all day, every day, without fail.

Wherever there is coal to be won, Terex and Blackwood Hodge are the winning team.

TEREX
Terex Equipment Limited,
Motherwell, Scotland.
John Blackwood Hodge
& Co. Ltd., Northampton, England.

HORIZONS

A guide to
career choiceDon't float all your hopes
on the college milk round

"Graduates are becoming misguidedly complacent," says Roger Hammett, Careers Officer at the University of Southampton. He blames the dramatic media coverage of the latest statistics, reporting "talent hunters rush the season," or "graduates in sellers' market holding out for higher pay."

Latest information released by the three principal organizations involved in Graduate Recruitment certainly substantiate the other figures. Although showing an increase of 3 per cent of the total expected to graduate in 1987, total vacancies are expected to increase by 7 per cent and vacancies advertised by the Central Services Unit were up by 20 per cent in December.

Those aiming to go into finance (excluding, naturally, the City) or computers can possibly afford to drag their heels. In the latter, too, there has been a rapidly increasing demand for graduate articulated clerks. But many other popular careers are intensively competitive, only informed and sophisticated applicants land the plum jobs.

Anyone interested, for example, in marketing, the media, publishing, personnel management, merchant banking, advertising, the public sector, the Health Service, the Civil Service and the Foreign Service should be actively involving themselves in seeking employment. As Roger Hammett points out, many of the top publishing houses only take on one or two applicants a year.

Whatever the overall shortage of

The annual hunt for
talented graduates by
head-hunters can raise
false expectations and it
is best to make a realistic
appraisal of your
true strengths,
says Clare Hogg

decisions to apply to a particular organization. Seventy-six point three per cent read the brochure before applying for an interview. Glossy presentation, which is less than informative, reflects badly on an employer. So does information given in the interview which is at odds with information given in the brochure. Corporate videos and careers officers can also provide information.

The research is important because it enables students to coach themselves in the expectations of employers. Many students panic about their CVs, feeling them to be a sadly inadequate witness to a misspent youth. All could certainly benefit from viewing *Write, giving full details*, a new video, available at most Graduate Careers Advisor Services, which gives help and advice for filling in application forms.

Somewhere between a third and a half of advertised vacancies make no specification on degree discipline, but again this should hush no one into the cosy thought that "anyone can apply". It opens the field, and those who are good communicators are already at an advantage.

Anyone who is not confident of his interviewing skills should practice at every opportunity. One possibility is with companies which want to give their recruits interviewing practice, although those availing themselves of this should take heed that occasionally these "phony" interviews are actually the real thing. In addition, other qualifications, apart from a degree, are often required.

Proven ability to learn a foreign language is one frequently-cited condition. Even more common is the desire for numeracy - mathematics O-level is a generally-accepted proof of this.

When is the best time for job-hunting to take place? The trend is much more towards year-round recruitment, than religiously observing the spring term milkround. According to a survey carried out by Mori only 55 per cent of 1987 final year students had applied for a job by the end of their second term. The

figure for London University was even lower at 40 per cent.

On the other hand, quite a number of companies seeking to secure candidates with high potential are now making autumn term bids. A new report by Incomes Data Services, as well as the latest AGCAS/CSU/AGS survey reveals little evidence of "golden hellos" but often an early commitment is required.

The really strong candidate should not allow himself to be pressurized. Finally, Roger Hammett advises against the temptation to take a year off. Even linguists, he points out, get out of touch in job hunting terms in the sandwich year they take off.

What should the graduate look for? Reported starting salaries are increasing faster than the rate of inflation, and the latest survey quotes a median salary of £9,000. More important considerations are what the employer can offer in the way of career paths, training facilities, and promotional prospects.

The merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson, provide an interesting example. George Alford, the group personnel director, is understandably proud of the exemplary training given within the bank to newly-recruited graduates, and points out that in many cases it is the principal attraction of Kleinwort Benson as an employer.

Many employers either decide the final destiny of the graduate in terms of function and department when the offer

Wandering in a maze of
haphazard apprenticeship

is made, or send the hapless employee out for considerable lengths of time, wandering unguided through a maze of apparently haphazard apprenticeships.

Not at Kleinwort Benson. On October 1, some 25 to 30 fortunate new recruits are put immediately onto an intensive induction programme. First, presentation skills are taught. These range from telephone manner and report writing to public speaking and committee work.

The graduates are then trained in technical skills: they become literate on computers, and are taught basic accounting, relating it in particular to lending and investment banking.

The embryonic banker begins to feel confident, and familiar with the jargon of the profession. Then each of the operating activities gives a presentation, both of what it does, and equally importantly, who works within it. The employee can then make an informed decision on where he wants to work. With this system, a careful match can be made.

EDUCATIONAL

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAMBROOK, BERKSHIRE
HEAD

The Governors of Lambrook invite applicants for the post of Head from September 1989 in succession to Mr TV Clough who retires in August.

Lambrook, founded in 1860, is an IAPS Boarding Preparatory School for boys. There are, at present, 140 pupils in the school.

Candidates should be graduates and committed members of the Anglican Church.

Particulars of the conditions and involvements attached to the post and the method of application may be obtained from:

The Chairman of the Governors
Lambrook
Winkfield Row
Bracknell
Berks
RG12 6LU

The closing date for applications is
April 18 1988.



Giggleswick

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL
H.M.C. Boarding and Day School
For Boys and Girls 13 - 18
Required for September, 1988

HEAD
OF ENGLISH

An exciting opportunity for a good Honours Graduate with the drive and enthusiasm to lead a major department in a school with a great commitment to English and Drama.

For further details please contact:

The Headmaster,
Giggleswick School, Settle,
North Yorks., BD24 0DE
Tel: 072 92 3545.

THE DOWNS SCHOOL

Colwell, Malvern, Worcs. WR13 8EY
IAPS Boarding Preparatory School for
Boys and Girls aged 7 - 13
ACADEMIC AWARDS DAY
Saturday 27th February
Please write or telephone the School (0684) 40277
for further particulars

MERCHANT
TAYLOR'S SCHOOL

NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX, HA6 2HT
A Christian foundation which by statute
admits pupils of every race and nation
require for September a young

GEOGRAPHER

able to teach GCSE GEOLOGY and willing
to play a full part in the extra-curricular life
of the School (e.g. Rugby football
and/or CCF)

Applications to include c.v. and names of
two referees to headmaster.

THE LEYS
SCHOOL

The Leys School is an Independent Boarding School
with 400 pupils, including girls in the Sixth Form.
Required from September 1988, a graduate to teach
ENGLISH throughout the School. The department is
lively and innovative, engaged in 100% coursework
GCSE (Language and Literature) and its own devised
'A' Level course. This post would suit a young teacher
in his/her first or second appointment.

Help with residential duties, drama, games or other
extra-curricular activities would be welcomed.
Free accommodation and an allowance is available in
exchange for assistance in a Boarding House.

A letter of application together with a curriculum
vite and the names of three referees, should be
addressed to The Headmaster, The Leys School,
Cambridge, CB3 2AD, from whom further details may
be obtained.

WENTWORTH
MILTON MOUNT

Boarding school BMS 20Y
East of London
Head of English, reported for
September 1988. An exciting opportunity for a
graduate with a strong background in English and
Literature to lead a department in a school with a
strong commitment to the English language and to the
teaching of English as a second language. The post
would suit a young teacher in his/her first or second
appointment. Apply by letter, with CV and names of
three referees, to the Headmaster, Wentworth
Milton Mount, East of London. Further details on
request.

SCORTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Richmond,
North Yorkshire YO10 0BS
Tel: (0748) 511225
Interim Headmaster and Day
School for Boys aged 13 to 18 years
Required for September 1988, a graduate to teach
ENGLISH throughout the School. The department is
lively and innovative, engaged in 100% coursework
GCSE (Language and Literature) and its own devised
'A' Level course. This post would suit a young teacher
in his/her first or second appointment. Apply by letter,
with CV and names of three referees, to the Headmaster,
Scorton Grammar School, Richmond, North Yorkshire.
Further details on request.

Brochures the biggest
influence on student

applicants, there is no shortage of them
for the good jobs.

What course of action should the
serious graduate job applicant take?
Firstly, carry out an honest - not harsh -
self-assessment; an objective appraisal of
strengths and weaknesses. Roger
Hammett cheerfully advises the "art of
ETA (exaggerating the acceptable) and
CTU (cover up the unacceptable)."

Work books and computer pro-
grammes, such as Cascade and
Gridscope, offer a basic structure for
further discussion with Careers Officers,
friends and relatives. The student then
needs to marry his abilities up with the
most appropriate sector of employment.

A lot of research needs to be
carried out on the various functions
within the chosen employment sector,
and even more important, the individual
employers who are taking on graduates.

A research project carried out by
Lorna Cooksey at Aston University
Management Centre showed that the
company brochure was the single most
important influence upon students' de-

BRYANSTON SCHOOL
DORSET

(13-18 boarding: 420 boys, 240 girls)
PHYSICS

A graduate physicist is required for September 1988 to
complete a department of four. Nuffield A Level and
GCSE courses are well developed in excellent facilities
and will benefit from the student's own CDT block. The
Bryanston System provides opportunity for class and
small group teaching and all staff are expected to assist
with extra-curricular and pastoral duties. Bryanston has
its own salary scale which has been revised recently.
Please apply by letter to the Headmaster, Bryanston
School, Dorset DT11 0PF, enclosing
curriculum vitae and the names of two referees.

MALVERN COLLEGE
DIRECTOR OF ART

Required for September 1988 a Director of Art
to lead a strong, well-established department
with facilities for drawing, painting, ceramics,
print making and photography and a lecture
theatre for History of Art.

The successful candidate must be willing and
able to play a full part in the life of a boarding
community.
Salary above Baker. Accommodation may be
available.
Applications together with a full curriculum
vite and the names and addresses of two
referees should be made as soon as possible to
The Headmaster, Malvern College,
Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3DF, from
whom further particulars of the school and of
this post may be obtained.

ASHDOWN HOUSE

An IAPS boarding preparatory school requires qualified
teachers in September.
1. Science
2. History
3. PE (with rugby expertise)
If you are ambitious, have an interesting career history and hold a good
degree or equivalent, we would like to hear from you. Financial
support is available for overseas candidates.
For more information and an application form contact Miss Brown,
Warwick Business School, School of Industrial and Business Studies,
University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.
Telephone: (0223) 524243

BOSTON PLACE SCHOOL, BAL
COVENTRY

Coventry
Junior School
EXPANSION

In September 1988 a new Junior School, Macdonald House,
will be opened to the grounds of the Main School and the Junior
Department will double in size, with four parallel classes from 7
- 11 years by 1989.
The Junior School has an integrated broad based curriculum
covering high academic standards within a child-centred and
enriching environment. Pupils are prepared for 11+ entry to the
Senior School of Boston Place and other independent day and
boarding schools.
Entry to the new junior classes will be by assessment and
interview. Candidates for entry for the new academic year
beginning in September should be born between 1.9.87 and
1.9.81. The Entrance Tests take place, by arrangement, on
Thursday mornings from 9 - 11 am.
Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary if you wish for further
information and a School Prospectus on 01 876 9971.

HIGHGATE SCHOOL

HEADSHIP

The Headship of this school will become vacant at
the end of August 1988. Applicants should be
between the ages of 30 and 50 and must be
University Graduates. Particulars of the post and
forms of application may be obtained from the
undersigned and the completed application form
should be returned to him not later than Friday 18th
March 1988.
John M.A. Talbot, Clerk to the Governors,
Messrs. Bowyer Gidley & Bowyer,
36 Whitehall Street,
London EC4Y 8BH.

DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOL
BURSAR & CLERK TO
THE GOVERNORS

The post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of
Dame Allen's Schools (880 pupils) will become vacant
on 2nd November 1988.

Applications are invited from persons with previous
experience and/or a professional qualification such as
A.C.I.S. Preferred age range is 35-45.
It is envisaged that the successful applicant will
commence employment on 1st July 1989.
Closing date for applications 29th February 1988.
Further details and application form from:
Bursar & Clerk to the Governors,
Dame Allen's Schools,
Forebury Crescent, Farnham,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YL.

Luckley-Oakfield
School

Wokingham, Berks.
BURSAR AND CLERK
TO THE GOVERNORS

Required for 1st September 1988 at GSA/GGSA
Girls Day and Boarding School (250 girls aged 11-18).
Applicants should be in sympathy with the educational
and Christian aims of the School. This is a key
position and carries the appropriate level of salary.
Further details from the Clerk to the Governors,
Thorburn, Saddlers Scarp, Grayshott, Hindhead,
Surrey. GU28 6DZ. Closing date 17th March 1988.

Required September 1988
HEAD TEACHER

THE CONVENT OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT

An independent Roman Catholic School
for girls & mixed infants
Pupils aged 4-18
Approximately 300 on roll
Salary: Barnham Group B
Good leadership qualities essential, coupled with
substantial teaching experience.
Applications must be practising Roman Catholics.
Sittingbourne is a rapidly growing town situated close
to the Dartford and Greenwich area of London
and the Channel Ports.
The recently established Board of Governors believe
that there are excellent opportunities for the
successful applicant to participate in the development
and expansion of the school and its facilities.
Information about the school and a full job description
are available from:

The Chairman of the Governors
The Convent of the Nativity
West Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1AE
Tel: School Secretary: 0795 23713
Letters of application accompanied by a full CV and
the names of three referees should be sent to the
Chairman of the Governors, marked "HTA".
Confidentiality to arrive no later than Friday 4th March.

THE KING'S SCHOOL
Macclesfield

Required for September 1988, a young
graduate with a strong background in English and
Literature to lead a department in a school with a
strong commitment to the English language and to the
teaching of English as a second language. The post
would suit a young teacher in his/her first or second
appointment. Apply by letter, with CV and names of
three referees, to the Headmaster, The King's School,
Macclesfield, Cheshire. Further details on request.

SPECIALIST
TRAINING

LEARN the language you need to
succeed in your career. Short term courses in French,
German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Russian,
Arabic, Hebrew, etc. at the University of Warwick.
Courses are taught by experienced staff and are
designed to give you a solid foundation in the
language. Courses are available for entry
in September 1988. Contact the Registrar, St. Helen's
School, Northwood, Middlesex. Telephone 09274 26825.

SCHOLARSHIPS

**ST. HELEN'S
SCHOOL**
NORTHWOOD,
MIDDLESEX
HA6 3AS

The Governors are pleased to invite
applications for the LEADER-BAKER
SCHOLARSHIP, a new award, for
academically able girls who will be 14 by
1st September, 1988, and who wish to
enter St. Helen's in September 1988. The
award is by examination on 10th March,
1988, and by interview of selected
candidates.

Details from the Registrar, St. Helen's
School, Northwood, Middlesex.
Telephone 09274 26825.

BEDSTONE COLLEGE
BUCKNELL, SHROPSHIRE

SCHOLARSHIP AND
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
Friday March 18, 1988

for candidates 10 to 14 years. Valuable awards
up to £3,500 per annum. Enquiries to
Headmaster.
Girls and Boys may be accepted at other times,
but not considered for awards unless sitting
this Examination.
Sixth Form Scholarships.
Telephone
BUCKNELL 303

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

MBA

"A year to change your life"
The Warwick one-year full-time MBA offers broad management training
with a choice of specialisms in the last year. It is a course of
excellence in training managers for top positions in leading international
business.
If you are ambitious, have an interesting career history and hold a good
degree or equivalent, we would like to hear from you. Financial
support is available for overseas candidates.
For more information and an application form contact Miss Brown,
Warwick Business School, School of Industrial and Business Studies,
University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.
Telephone: (0223) 524243

LONDON SCHOOL OF
ACCOUNTANCY

CACA? AAT?
Full and part-time (Saturday) nine month courses
Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
Level 1 & 3 courses commence 28 March & 29 September
Entry: 3 O's & 2 A's including Maths & English
Association of Accounting Technicians
Intermediate courses (internally assessed)
commence 5 April & 4 October
Entry: 4 O's including Maths & English
'A' LEVELS?
18 month full-time courses in 3 subjects
commence 11 April
Entry: 3 O' Levels

For further details contact the Registrar,
Ref: TMS, HLT Group of Colleges,
200 Gresham Road, London W14 9RY.
Tel: 01 385 3377

FRENCH COURSES
FOR 8-18 YEAR OLDS

Learn French in an interesting and vital way
in the beautiful Dordogne. Short courses,
total immersion, language laboratories,
video, TV, Bilingual French staff.
Chateaux, caves and historic towns.
Activities include tennis, horse riding,
canoeing and cookery.

Further details:
L'Ecole Hampshire
24250 Veyrines-de-Domme, France
Telephone (010.33.53) 29.53.15
or
The Secretary
Hampshire Tutorials Ltd
23 Melton Court
London SW7 3JQ
Telephone 01-584 0744

WOMEN BACK
TO BUSINESS

A 12 week non-residential course
(Accounting, Management, Law,
IT & Public Relations) starts
16/04/88. Contact:
Tony Saunders-Davies,
Pittman & Partners,
Oldfield Rd.,
Teddington TW20 6LT.
Tel: 01 891 5907

L.L.B. DEGREE

Full and part-time courses for the Law
at the University of London. For
further details contact the Registrar,
Ref: TMS, HLT Group of Colleges,
200 Gresham Road, London W14 9RY.
Tel: 01 385 3377

Faculty of Law
LLB
Degree

Part-time,
day or evening

The Faculty of Law offers two
part-time LLB degrees: the
day course for entry
in London and its own
evening degree. The aim is
to provide an opportunity
for people who would like
to further or change their
careers by acquiring a
degree through part-time
study.
The emphasis is on
flexibility. The courses are
planned so that students
can choose their own pace
and mode of study, as well
as having a choice from a
wide range of options.
Entry requirements are
also flexible.
Further details and
application forms for entry
in September 1988 from:
The Registrar,
Faculty of Law,
P.O. Box 100,
Red Lion Square,
London WC1R 4AS.
Tel: 01-405 9144.

CRUCIAL EXAMS
IN 1988?

GCSE 'O' or 'A' level? Applying
UCAS or Polytechnic?
Qualifications?
NOW IS THE TIME to consult
an expert and experienced
and experienced. For brochures:
CAREER ANALYSTS
90 Gloucester Place, W1
01-935 5452 (24 hrs)

CHILD
DOES YOUR CHILD
NEED HELP?

Are you concerned about your
child's educational progress or
personal development?
Our expert advice and guidance,
from 11-19 years.
Please write to a brochure to
Dr. Judith Haines, (T) Child
Development, 3 Dromedary Court,
26 Dromedary Street, London
W1N 1JQ or 01-405 9144.

Continued on next page

Continued on next page

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

Shorthand Secretary

£8,500-£9,000 pa Knightbridge

We have an opportunity for an intelligent and well presented shorthand secretary to assist our Administration Secretary in our busy Knightbridge office.

The position would suit a well qualified college leaver with speeds of 50wpm typing and 80wpm shorthand, word processing experience and the maturity to deal with directors and other VIPs.

Please call Anna Fletcher on 01-245 1201.

(No agencies please)

VSEL

Accept the challenge of advanced technology

SHOPPING SPREE

to £14,000

Our client, an exclusive department store group, seeks an experienced PA/Secretary to give full support to a senior director. This is a rewarding position involving top level contacts and requiring a high degree of commitment. Benefits include large discounts and subsidised restaurant. 90-55 wpm skills needed.

OSBORNE - RICHARDSON

10 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1

01-409 2393

TWO SHORTHAND SECRETARIES

23+ SALARY UP TO £14,000

Our client a prestigious financial institution within the City urgently require, due to expansion, an experienced Chairman level Secretary ideally aged between 23-30 with skills of 100/60 wpm and an extremely professional approach. A Director Level Secretary with skills of 100/60 for an extremely varied position within the sales area. A professional manner and flexibility will be rewarded with salary to £11,000 + ex perks.

GUARDIAN RECRUITMENT

1a New Street (Off Bishopsgate) London EC2

Tel: 623 3444 Day/0378 76637 Eves. Fax: 626 0809

FLAIR FOR FASHION!

£14,000

An energetic and innovative personality with brilliant organisational and secretarial skills (90/60 + WP) to assist this senior buying director of this famous retail fashion group. DV, MUSIC, experience, O'level + education. Age: 21+

COSMETICS

£13,000

Exciting and demanding role assisting the MD of this high profile cosmetics house. Impeccable administration and secretarial skills (90/60). Confidence and an innate sense of style. Age: 25-30

SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

£12,500 + perks

Assisting the specialist PR director to organise sports and special event sponsorships for this well known consumer product. Good secretarial skills (80/60). High standards of education.

Handle Recruitment
10 New Bond St. London W1
01-493 1184

SPORTING FINANCE

£14,500

One of the world's leading sports promoters companies needs a top-notch secretary to work for a very senior executive. He has overall responsibility for their financial activities, seeking out investment opportunities for both the company and its clients, including many famous sporting personalities. He combines a high level of energy with a good sense of humour and he needs a secretary who can keep pace with him. A financial background will enable you to identify closely with his work, providing you with an enjoyable job in an exciting and vibrant atmosphere.

Age: 24-32
Skills: 110/60

CITY OFFICE
01-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

EXECUTIVE SEC

to £14,000

A confident and motivated professional Secretary (m/f) sought by the Director of a leading financial institution. The position involves a high degree of responsibility and a high degree of discretion. The successful candidate will be a well qualified, mature, and energetic individual with a high degree of initiative and a high degree of loyalty. Please call Mrs May on 01-245 1201.

PERSONAL AUDIO SEC

To Property Consultant

South Molton St. W1

c.£10,000. Accurate typing. Must be prepared to work alone.

Tel 01-629 4564

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

- VICTORIA -

c. £11,000

Ideal opportunity for a well presented, organised secretary working directly for a company. You will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including typing, filing, and general office management. You will also be responsible for the company's telephone system. You will be required to keep an appointment diary and make travel arrangements from time to time. If you are seeking good prospects within this new, prestigious office, then this is for you. Age: 24+

Bernadette of Bond St.

15, Bond Street London W1

01-223 1204

NATIONAL CHARITY - CHELSEA

c. £10,000

An excellent opportunity exists for an individual capable of taking on responsibility and adapting to a high degree of involvement. You will be working as PA to the Manager, using your shorthand and typing skills. You will be expected to carry all aspects of the Manager's role, and so run the Department and deputise for him on occasions. The PA aspect will ensure contact with the charity, the company, and the public. The position is a full-time, permanent one with excellent prospects. Ideal for a second jobber.

Bernadette of Bond St.

15, Bond Street London W1

01-223 1204

HOLDING COMPANY - WEST END

c. £12,000

You will be working directly with the Vice-President of this very successful multi-million holding company. You will be completely involved with all aspects of his work and will have to be prepared to accept full responsibility with confidence and good humour. This is no run of the mill PA job but a real opportunity for advancement. A year on, you will be able to move into a senior position with the company. Your salary, bonus and pension will be commensurate with your experience and qualifications. Please call Bernadette on 01-223 1204.

Bernadette of Bond St.

15, Bond Street London W1

01-223 1204

TELEVISION to £11,000

Combine secretarial and admin in this top independent TV company where promotion prospects are good. As well as organising client social functions you will be involved in personnel and can take on your own projects as this busy department continues to grow.

Age: 21-28 Skills: 100/60

01-321 1220

PR/ADVERTISING to £11,500

Openings for Creative Secs

★ Lively positive atmosphere

★ Excellent Social Scene

★ Interesting varied work

★ Scope and Responsibility

★ Good skills needed

CHAMPAGNE to £9,500

Good French needed for phone calls at Top Champagne Co. SJM skills. Supply of Champagne.

★ Lively positive atmosphere

★ Excellent Social Scene

★ Interesting varied work

★ Scope and Responsibility

★ Good skills needed

TOP PEOPLES ESTATE AGENTS

To £13,000

Excellent openings now for young ambitious Senior Secretaries with Top Property World clients in West End and City. Also more junior posts in £8,000-£10,000 range.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

RING YOUR NEAREST OFFICE

Fleet Street 353 7699 or Regent Street 439 1240

DYNAMIC DUO

£12,000

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join a fast moving company in Finance.

As PA/Secretary to the MD, you should enjoy working for a young, dynamic man who is involved in the overall development of an expanding company.

There will be plenty of contact both internally as well as with clients. You will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties, including typing, filing, and general office management. You will also be responsible for the company's telephone system. You will be required to keep an appointment diary and make travel arrangements from time to time. If you are seeking good prospects within this new, prestigious office, then this is for you. Age: 24+

Bernadette of Bond St.

15, Bond Street London W1

01-223 1204

FRENCH - EAST OF CITY

The Chairman of a City Co is looking for a mature and capable Sec with fluent Fr and Eng. Good typing, fast and accurate. Salary: £14,000.

★ Lively positive atmosphere

★ Excellent Social Scene

★ Interesting varied work

★ Scope and Responsibility

★ Good skills needed

★ Lively positive atmosphere

★ Excellent Social Scene

★ Interesting varied work

★ Scope and Responsibility

★ Good skills needed

★ Lively positive atmosphere

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MONDAY

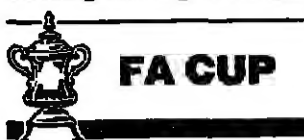
Houghton steers the Red Avengers

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Everton..... 0
Liverpool..... 1

Liverpool have reduced still further the odds on achieving the double for the second time in three years. Already considered as the inevitable champions, they beat Everton in this FA Cup fifth-round tie at Goodison Park yesterday to earn a place in a comparatively weak field of remnants.

A crowd of 48,270, contributing record gate receipts



of £225,000, as well as millions of television viewers watched them gain revenge for their fate in the Littlewoods Cup in October. Everton, their conquerors then and the only side to have beaten them this season, initially relished the memory but later lost sight of completing their own unique and private double.

Liverpool players suffering from claustrophobia would have been in need of a stretcher within half an hour. They were scarcely given room in which to breathe, let alone play. Since their clearances were invariably wild rather than measured, they advanced more through hurried ideas than with a structured plan.

Liverpool are accustomed to dismantling their opponents by keeping the ball running along the ground and through a bewildering array of



One for the road to Wembley: Houghton (right), with more Power to his elbow than he needs for his own comfort, heads past Southall to promote Liverpool's chances of a double

patterns in midfield. Against their neighbours they found they had no alternative but to seek a longer aerial route, a ploy that was certain to be unproductive.

In spite of the absence of Ratcliffe, the influential captain of Everton, neither Aldridge nor Beardsley was offered a genuine opportunity to follow a path over, round or through the rugged central defensive partnership of Watson and Van den Hauwe. The striking pair were mere irritants rather than threats.

Yet so were Everton as a collective force. Once Reid had pulled a muscle at the top

of his right thigh after 10 minutes, they had no one to hold on to the reins of their enthusiasm. They galloped down any available track without always stopping momentarily to consider where it might lead.

Throughout an especially frenzied first half they carried the greater, albeit limited, danger. Before Bracewell had come on to fill a significant role in a competitive fixture for the first time in some 18 months, Steven chose to try to bore a hole through Grobbelaar rather than cross from a narrow angle.

Sharp later snatched at one

equally clear chance and Power, coming in alone to

Favourites

Ladbrokes make Liverpool 6-4 favourites for the FA Cup after yesterday's victory. They suspended betting on Liverpool winning the League title three months ago, but are offering 5-2 against them remaining unbeaten in the League this season.

meet Heath's chip, used accuracy when he might have been better advised to follow his own name. For all

Everton's possession and marginal superiority, they did not otherwise stretch Liverpool's goalkeeper before the interval.

After it, one header from Snodin bounced wickedly in a pockmarked goalmouth, almost deceiving Grobbelaar, and another from Pointon all but squeezed its way past him. Yet Everton could not break down the defence that has been broken only once, and even then meaninglessly at Watford, in their last dozen fixtures.

It was as though Everton were cleaning a rifle, polishing all of its intricate components and even loading a bullet only

for Liverpool to step up and pull the trigger. They did so to deadly effect with 15 minutes to go and with only their third attempt of the afternoon.

A free kick by Barnes and a distant drive from McMahon, England's latest debutant and the most prominent individual on view, had been the measure sum of their attacks. But when Barnes exchanged rapidly and delightfully with his international colleague, Beardsley, Everton's defence, and Pointon in particular, were instantly disorientated by his curling cross.

Houghton, otherwise notably ineffective in his duel on the flank with Power, stole in to head cleanly past Southall. In claiming only his fifth goal of the season, he dismissed Everton, who had already played enough ties in the competition (this was their eighth in six weeks) to have won the trophy itself.

Everton: N. Sedgwick, G. Stevens, N. Power, P. Van den Hauwe, A. Haden, P. Beardsley, J. Aldridge, R. Houghton, J. Barnes, S. McMahon.

Liverpool: B. Grobbelaar, G. Abbott, S. Watson, S. Hock, N. Southall, A. Hansen, P. Beardsley, J. Aldridge, R. Houghton, J. Barnes, S. McMahon.

Referee: J. Martin.

Glentoran in dazzling form in Cup

Glentoran opened their defence of the Bass Irish Cup in dazzling style at the Oval, beating Coleraine 3-0 after a classic encounter.

A delightful chip by Cleary four minutes into the second half - he scored with a penalty after 12 minutes - put the game out of reach of Coleraine, and a Moore goal midway through the half only emphasised Glentoran's superiority.

Linfield held the upper hand at Inver Park against Larne, but after taking the lead through McGaughey, conceded an own goal, and now face a replay at Windsor Park tomorrow night (7.30).

Junior clubs Dunmurry Recreation and Banbridge Town were both eliminated.

Derby at Dundee

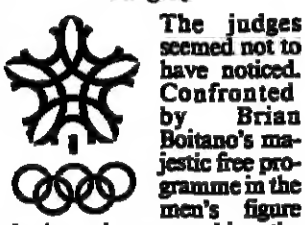
Dundee and Dundee United, the rival Tayside clubs who play just 200 yards apart in the same street, meet in the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup next month.

The two sides met in the semi-final of the Cup last season and on that occasion, United won 3-2 at neutral Tynecastle Park. However, in the quarter-finals of this year's Skol Cup, Dundee triumphed after extra time at Dens Park. Dundee will be at home on March 12.

Dunfermline, who caused the upset of the fourth round by defeating Rangers 2-0 on Saturday, take on Hearts at Tynecastle. Rangers compounded their season's disciplinary problem by having another player sent off. Brown appeared to elbow Smith - who had scored Dunfermline's first goal - and was dismissed a minute before the

Boitano in a world of his own as he lifts gold medal for US

From David Miller
Calgary



The judges seemed not to have noticed. Confronted by Brian Boitano's majestic free programme in the men's figure skating, they gave him the gold medal almost by accident: by the time of margins, a 20,000 Saddle Dome audience, at a fever pitch of expectation for Canada's first gold medal from Brian Orser, was left in limp disbelief. The Canadian majority among them had also failed fully to appreciate the sophistication of America's first winner at these Olympics.

Orser, who last year had taken Boitano's world title and was silver medal winner behind Scott Hamilton in 1984, was crestfallen. Yet while he had come out to skate, a shade historically, for the gallery and for a gold

medal, Boitano, with unprecedented poise, had skated for himself and for posterity.

"It didn't matter to me whether it was gold, silver or bronze," he said uniquely, "I came to give a performance, the best of my life if possible. I did, and for me, that was it."

He had been first of the final group of six medal contenders. After rapturous applause, he had left the ice, returned to the dressing-room without watching the remaining five, and had packed. What happened next, he said, had not mattered. Orser, his wan face tight with dismay, looked along the Press conference table with aching, uncomprehending eyes at his triumphant rival.

For Orser, the medal had mattered so much more than the performance. Boitano, by contrast, had skated as though in a world of his own, indifferent to the crowd: athletically agile yet in an artistic trance.

To my unspecialized but

instinctive eye, the difference between them was apparent, and equally subtle as between silk and satin. "He was too sophisticated for the judges," Sandra Bezic said of Boitano.

Bezic, a willowy blonde Canadian of Yugoslav descent, was ninth in the 1972 Games at Sapporo, aged 15, skating with her brother in pairs, and subsequently fifth in the world championships. She is now a prominent choreographer. Nine months ago she started to work with Boitano: with magical effect.

He had been, always, an exemplary technician, the world champion in 1986. She revealed his heart and soul. "What I did was give him the confidence to be himself," she said, her deep Adriatic eyes aglow with satisfaction. "He needed that confidence to bare himself, he was afraid, the warmth wasn't there. But he was ready to absorb what I had to give."

To the music of Carmen Coppola and dressed in the

dark grey uniform of a nineteenth century Legionnaire, Boitano expressed the moods of a soldier: introspective, romantic, resolute, morbid, victorious. Here was Hamilton and John Curry blended into one.

"It was emotionally everything I hoped it would be," Bezic said. When Boitano revolved in three long backward-leaning circles - the spreadeagle, in which Curry did a single turn - it was a sublime combination of grace and technique. Boitano's line throughout was such that you became unaware at times of his contact with the ice; whereas Orser, for all his extravagance, was somehow muscular and jerky, with too much arm movement.

Both men had been under intense pressure of nationalistic expectation. Orser, long afflicted by nerves, had been in consultation with a psychologist. I can think of few more severe tests for the solo sports performer than to go out on the ice in front of that huge audience in an ice hockey stadium. Going out to bat against Lilée or Hall might be worse.

Orser denied afterwards that he was nervous. Tense, he said. But he was licking dry lips as he glided to the centre of the ring at the start. Boitano, following the trams of speed skater Dan Jansen, had been besieged by endless exultations from American colleagues. "C'mon, c'mon, the gold, man."

It was ironic that a Canadian should have conspired in an American victory, though this is the nature of so much coaching in international sport. It makes nonsense of the reprehensible headlines condemning Christopher Dean as a traitor for coaching the French. You would have supposed that Dean and his partner had done more than enough to repay Nottingham for any assistance provided on the way up.

More Olympics, page 43

Noah collects free title after injury forces out Connors

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Milan

Jimmy Connors, who has not won a tennis tournament since October 1984, when he beat Ivan Lendl in Tokyo, has fallen at the last fence for the tenth time in three years - and more painfully than usual.

Connors had to retire when serving at 4-4 and 30-all against Yannick Noah in the Stella Artois indoor championships yesterday.

Connors, aged 35, felt a twinge of pain in his right ribs when working hard to hold his service in the first game. After that he was in trouble when he had to stretch wide. The problem was a torn intercostal cartilage.

Bill Norris, the physiotherapist, applied a pain-killing spray at every changeover after the first three games. Norris sat on court during the games and at 4-4 Noah mildly asked the supervisor, Ed Hardisty, if there was any restriction on Norris's presence. There was not. But in the next game Connors had to stretch for a volley and could no longer carry on. The match had lasted only 42 minutes.

Connors has always played

a physically-demanding type of tennis and since 1976 he has had to retire during eight matches, including four finals, and could not even go on court for three others, including one final.

"I guess I wasn't quite warmed up enough and tried to do a little too much," he said yesterday. "It hurts like hell. I've had teeth knocked out and everything else, but this takes the cake."

Noah went back on court to play an exhibition match with Claudio Mezzadri for the capacity crowd of 7,896. Since Wednesday, Noah has had a flight booked to Paris. He kept calling his friends to say he would see them "tomorrow".

But in consecutive matches he beat the last two Wimbledon champions, Pat Cash and Boris Becker.

Becker was beaten 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 on Saturday in a match of exemplary quality. It was dominated by services, returns and first volleys, but the violence was always exciting. Noah again displayed his superb athleticism and also profited from his delicacy of touch.

The only pity about this

richly entertaining two hours and 38 minutes was that in the decisive tie-break Noah took two crucial points with winners off the net cord.

Becker and Eric Jelen beat Miloslav Meck and Tomas Smid 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles final, an aperitif before the Noah-Connors match.

This was Noah's first appearance in Milan, where he was often mistaken for the local hero, Rudi Guliti, the European footballer of the year. They look so much alike, even to the dreadlocks, that when Guliti turned up at the tennis he was mistaken for Noah.

Visually, it was a confusing week. The famous cathedral, a bright forest of spires that rises to 356 feet and incorporates more than 3,400 statues, always challenges belief. This was carnival week, too, with children sporting vivid costumes and wild makeup. For Connors, though, the party lasted one day too long.

RESULTS: Singles - Semi-finals: J. Connors (US) vs M. Sngor (CZ), 6-1, 3-6, 6-1; V. Noah (FR) vs B. Becker (FR), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6. Final: Connors, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6. Doubles: F. Guliti & B. Becker vs E. Jelen (FR) & T. Smid (CZ), 6-3, 6-3.

Brown's US venture pays off

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

Ken Brown yesterday discovered the importance of being adventurous with the confirmation that he was one of six European golfers invited to compete in the US Masters at Augusta National from April 7 to 10.

Brown elected four years ago to sacrifice an easier life in Europe by seeking fame and fortune in the United States. It eventually resulted in a victory in the Southern Open last October and an invitation to the Masters. The irony is that while Brown will tie-up at Augusta, so his European Ryder Cup colleagues, Gordon Brand Junior, Howard Clark, Sam Torrance, and José-María Olazábal, who are all above him in the Sony world rankings, will be absent.

That in itself points to a situation manipulated by the USPGA Tour. Quite simply, it is essential to compete in the

United States in order to prise open the doors to the major championships. In other words, Augusta remains a closed shop to all the world's golfers unless they agree to the American system.

Jan Woosnam has found another passage by heading the Order of Merit in Europe last year. Nick Faldo, too, could hardly be excluded as the Open champion, while Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer, both past champions, and Sandy Lyle, the US Tournament Players' champion, were automatic invites.

What concerns me is that those in control at the US Masters, which is an unique championship, apparently possess neither the nous nor the nerve to overrule the system. Hord Hardin, the chairman of the Masters, has it within his hands to

harmonise world golf.

Clearly, the US PGA Tour has no intention whatsoever of doing so. Its marathon contretemps with Ballesteros underlines that to be the case, even though Tony Jacklin and Jack Nicklaus, the respective captains of Europe and the United States in the Ryder Cup four months ago, agreed that Europe's victory could and should change the pattern of world golf.

It has not, and Brand jr, 31st in the rankings, Clark (38th), Torrance (45th) and Olazábal (49th) are all victims of the system. Only José Rivero (64th) and Eamonn Darcy (119th) of Europe's Ryder Cup team are below Brown (62nd) in the rankings. This is not to castigate Brown, for no European has earned his place at Augusta more than the Scotsman, but to underline the growth of the game world-wide.

Airikkala's fourth win

Pentti Airikkala, of Finland, comfortably won the Carat International rally in Yorkshire yesterday, when the opening round of the Shell Oils RAC rally championship was run in fine weather for the first time since 1972.

Airikkala won in a brand new Mitsubishi Starion and now has the unusual distinction of having won the event four times using a different make of vehicle on each occasion.

Swim honour

Fred Moorhouse, of Bolton, has been awarded the coveted Harold Fern Award for outstanding services in swimming as chairman of the Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) water polo committee since 1961 and involvement with the sport at club, county and district levels.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Troke runner-up

Troke loss

Helen Troke, the European and Commonwealth champion, yesterday came close to her first title in 18 months since a ruptured Achilles tendon threatened her career. The former England No. 1 was beaten in the final of the Belgium Open in three games by Christine Magnusson, the top Swede. Troke had earlier beaten the South Korean, Lee Chung Mi, and Charlotte Hattens, of Denmark. Morten Frost, another Dane, took the men's title.

Captain named

Lois Richardson has been elected captain of the England women's ice hockey team for the home international season and for the Easter tour of the United States.

Trying out

Hampshire are giving a trial to Alan Mullally, aged 19, an Australian left-arm seam bowler who was born in Southend and is English qualified.

Timely arrival

Neil Tennant, of Luton United, won the first City of London 12.5km road race from the Guildhall to the London City Airport in 38min 53sec yesterday.

Bear beaten

Silvino Francisco, of South Africa, completed a 5-0 whitewash against Jim Bear, of Canada, in their third-round match of the MIM Brixham British Open at Derby yesterday.

Pole is banned for drugs and team penalized

Calgary (Reuters) - A Polish ice hockey player has been disqualified from the Winter Olympics after failing a drugs test, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said.

Jaroslav Morawiecki, a forward, was banned after testing positive for the banned substances testosterone and epistestosterone. Following Poland's 6-2 win over France on Thursday, Michèle Verdier, IOC spokeswoman, told a news conference.

She said the Poles would be allowed to continue in the Olympic tournament but had been stripped of the two points they gained for their win over France.

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) would decide whether to strip the Poles of their only other point, gained in a 1-1 draw with the world champions, Sweden, on Tuesday, she added.

END COLUMN

Scarring the national game

By Ian Stafford

Another weekend of football, another weekend of bootlegging: 14 arrests at Manchester as United supporters returned from the FA Cup tie at Arsenal, seven arrests after the Leyton Orient v Cardiff match, 70 arrests after the Birmingham v Nottingham Forest Cup match. . . . None of it the stuff of real shock-horror football violence - until you hear the story of the 35-year-old police constable in hospital lucky to be alive after being the punch-bag for a small army of thugs. Two of his colleagues escaped with severe bruising and facial injuries.

The three Manchester officers had travelled with more than 300 United supporters on Saturday morning on a British Rail service train for the match at Highbury. The escorting policemen have established a rapport with the supporters and, even though United lost, the return evening journey saw no trouble.

As the three officers escorted the train load out of Manchester Piccadilly station, after what had already been a 12-hour shift, an 80-strong group of bootleggers claiming to be Manchester City supporters moved in and set about some of the United stragglers.

Duty being duty, the three policemen tried to stop the fight. A pack of about City supporters laid into the three officers. . . . PC John Duffy, aged 35, married with two children, was hit on the head with a blunt instrument. He was rushed to hospital and operated on yesterday morning for a depressed fracture of the skull. He was in stable condition last night, and police were hunting for his attacker.

PCs Martin and Yates were battered but emerged remarkably intact. And they will, no doubt, be on duty the same time, same place next week ready to take the punishment.

"Sometimes I wonder how much more a man can be expected to take," Ian McGregor, British Transport Police's assistant chief constable, said after hearing the news. "They had already done

Operation for Melrose

The Swindon midfield player, Chris Kamara, faces a possible assault charge after an incident with the Shrewsbury forward, Jim Melrose, on Saturday. Melrose, on loan from Leeds, was knocked flat as the players headed for the tunnel after Shrewsbury's 2-1 win at Gay Meadow.

He underwent surgery yesterday for a depressed cheekbone fracture and will be out of football for at least a month. A police statement, naming Kamara as the player involved, said a report would be sent to the crown prosecution service.

12 hours and were ready to go home when they walked straight into a heading up. It is such a sad reflection on society."

More than 70 people were arrested after Birmingham City supporters had pelted visiting Nottingham Forest supporters after Birmingham's 1-0 home defeat in the Cup. About 50 supporters and three police officers needed hospital treatment.

Chief Superintendent Bob Mills, of West Midlands Police, blamed alcohol for the crowd trouble. He added: "The Forest fans were not to blame. We had 18 mounted officers and a further 220 on foot trying to break up the trouble. More than 300 supporters were involved in the disturbance."

An old lady taking a innocent stroll along a Leyton street also experienced first hand the horrors of bootlegging when she was shoved by a group of 100 Cardiff supporters before being bundled to the ground.

A youth was stabbed outside Leyton Orient's ground in a clash between Orient and Cardiff followers. Trouble broke out during the match when Cardiff supporters invaded the area reserved for Orient followers.

Frank Clark, the Orient manager, described the Cardiff supporters as "inmates" and said he would ban them from the ground.

The Cardiff supporters later caused an express train to be halted at Ealing Broadway station for 53 minutes as they laid siege to two carriages and the police who attempted to thwart them. Three youths were ejected and six arrested. They were charged last night with causing criminal damage. Tomorrow The Times begins a major analysis of football and bootlegging: how and why it happens and the moves to control it.

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